

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

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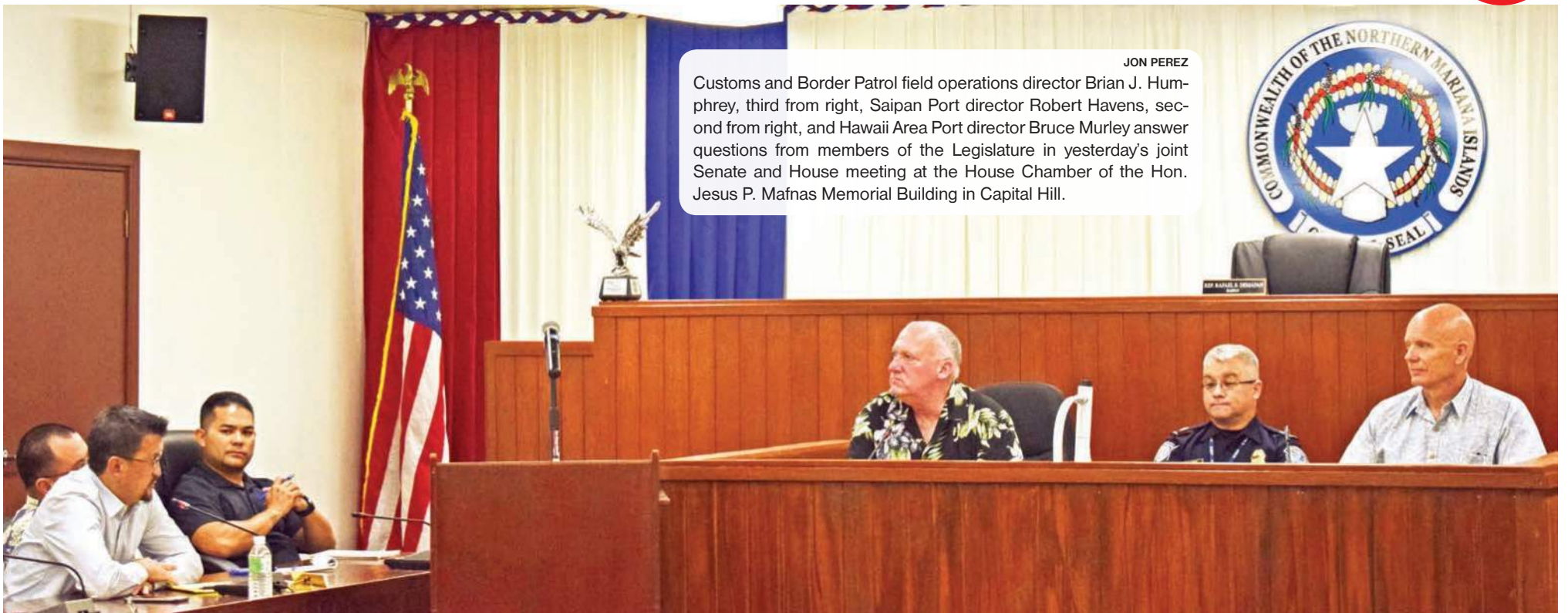
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 71

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2017

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75¢



JON PEREZ

Customs and Border Patrol field operations director Brian J. Humphrey, third from right, Saipan Port director Robert Havens, second from right, and Hawaii Area Port director Bruce Murley answer questions from members of the Legislature in yesterday's joint Senate and House meeting at the House Chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building in Capital Hill.

## '1,032 overstaying tourists worked illegally'

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol revealed that majority of the 1,032 tourists who they uncovered violated their parole authority by overstaying in the CNMI worked illegally in several companies. MCC International was among the companies that allegedly hired workers who have parole authority.

The parole authority is reserved for Chinese and Russian tourists while visitors from Japan and Korea enjoy the visa waiver program.

CBP Field Operations director Brian J. Humphrey, in a joint presentation to members of the Legislature. **See OVERSTAYING on Page 4**

## Kilili: Trump EO concern for NMI

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said an executive order signed by President Donald Trump involving the parole authority is a huge concern for the CNMI, most especially for the islands' growing Chinese tourism market.



Sablan

In 2009, the Obama administra-

tion entered into a parole system with Chinese and Russian visitors where they could enter the CNMI

visa free. Tourists from Japan and Korea also enjoy visa-free travel to the CNMI but under the visa waiver program.

Chinese visitors account for more than 30 percent of the CNMI's tourism market well within the goal set by Commonwealth officials. Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres, in his State of the Commonwealth Address last month, said their goal is to have a 30 percent share each from the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean markets.

Sablan supported Torres saying that the growing Chinese tourism market is important to the CNMI's economy. "But President Trump's [EO] directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to review the legality of the parole used by the previous

**See KILILI on Page 4**

## MVA hopeful visiting CBP official would help solve long lines at airport

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has high hopes that a visiting Customs

and Border Protection executive would assist in the CNMI's struggles to keep the immigration lines at the airport short.

In a message to *Saipan Tribune*,

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said that MVA is looking to discuss with CBP director of field operations at the San Francisco field office Brian Humphrey the long wait

times for tourists at the CBP area upon arrival.

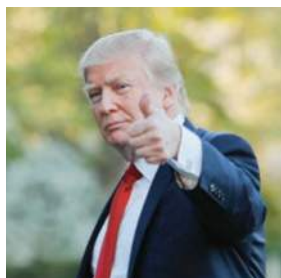
The CBP San Francisco field office has jurisdiction over all U.S. ports in the Western Pacific region

including the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, California, and Nevada.

Concepcion said that the unacceptable wait lines of 3 to 4 hours

**See MVA on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### NATION

President Donald Trump's national security adviser on Sunday left open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria.

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#### WORLD

Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 44 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

The rumored infighting between "The Fast and the Furious" biggest stars, Vin Diesel and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, is uncharted territory for the long-running series.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Public School System teacher representative Paul Miura, CNMI Mathcourt champion Claire Song of Agape Christian School, Su Rui Huang of Saipan International School, former CNMI State teacher of the year Dora Miura, Enjie Hu of ACS, Dave Jang of SIS, Myung-jae Cho of SIS, and Chen Xi Zhao of ACS. ACS coach Frederick Guintu and SIS coach Kacey Deatrich are posing with the CNMI team in the front row.

# Local

## Agape, SIS to represent CNMI in Mathleague

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

The top six winners of the CNMI Mathcourt competition would go on to represent the CNMI in the 2017 Mathleague competition high school category in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The CNMI Mathcourt competition was attended by both public and private high schools, but was dominated by Agape Christian School and Saipan International School students.

Mathcourt champion Claire

Song would be accompanied by her fellow ACS students 3rd placer Chen Xi Zhao and 5th placer Enjie Hu in Iowa to represent the CNMI.

Also representing the CNMI would be SIS' 2nd placer Myungjae Cho, 4th placer Su Rui Huang, and 6th placer Daniel Jang.

All of the members mentioned have represented the CNMI last year, except for Huang.

The CNMI Mathleague Team would be coached by

See AGAPE on Next Page

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# Woodruff's motion to allow him to continue as counsel denied

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has denied disbarred lawyer Stephen Woodruff's motion to modify the court's disbarment order so as to allow him to continue as counsel for former Commonwealth Health Center medical staff Dr. Gary Ramsey, who filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the CNMI government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and others.

At a status conference last Friday, Woodruff appeared on behalf of Dr. Ramsey. Attorney Christopher Timmons appeared on behalf of defendant Jeanolivia Grant. Assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger appeared on behalf of defendant CHCC.

According to the minutes of the conference, Tydingco-Gatewood cited her ruling in the disbarment order in denying Woodruff's request to modify.

Last month, Tydingco-Gatewood disbarred Woodruff from practice of law before the District Court. In her order issued on Thursday imposing CNMI courts reciprocal discipline of disbarment, Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff was given fair notice and an opportunity to be heard by the CNMI courts.

During Friday's status conference, Tydingco-Gatewood also granted CHCC's

and co-defendants' motion to stay proceedings until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issues the mandate in connection with defendants' appeal.

Last month, the Ninth Circuit ruled that the CNMI retained its sovereign immunity with respect to claims arising under Commonwealth law.

"In short, we hold that the Commonwealth may not be sued without its consent on claims arising under its own laws," according to the Ninth Circuit opinion penned by Judge Paul J. Watford and concurred by Judges J. Clifford Wallace and Jerome Farris.

The Ninth Circuit judges discussed the sovereign immunity issue in their opinion that reversed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's ruling in connection with Ramsey's lawsuit.

The judges remanded the case to the U.S. District Court for the NMI and directed it to grant the Commonwealth's motion to dismiss the claims at issue in this appeal. The Ninth Circuit has yet to issue mandate pertaining to its ruling.

At the status conference on Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood gave Ramsey permission to move to lift the stay of proceeding if the Ninth Circuit grants his motion for panel rehearing.

Tydingco-Gatewood de-

nied as moot Ramsey's emergency motion to prohibit defendant Grant from leaving the CNMI.

Timmons informed the court that Grant is already in the U.S. mainland and will make herself available for deposition there.

Ramsey, through counsel Woodruff, alleges in his lawsuit that the Commonwealth and the public corporation that runs CHC wrongfully denied him privileges at the hospital.

Ramsey named as defendants in his lawsuit the

CNMI government, CHCC, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, and several other present and former hospital officials.

On May 29, 2015, the court dismissed the CNMI government and CHC from the four claims in Ramsey's lawsuit.

The court dismissed with prejudice the CNMI government and CHCC from Ramsey's four claims: declaratory and injunctive relief—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law, two claims of

damages—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law, and a claim of damages—unlawful deprivation of liberty and property without due process of law. Dismissed with prejudice means Ramsey could not re-file the four claims in the future.

The court also dismissed with prejudice Ramsey's two other claims: violation of U.S. Constitution and violation of CNMI Constitution.

The dismissal leaves four causes of action to remain in the lawsuit: breach of con-

tract, tortious interference with contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and liability of CNMI government.

The CNMI government and co-defendants, through then-Office of the Attorney General Solicitor Division chief James M. Zarones, appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

Zarones initiated the appeal from the court's order, which held that the defendants are not entitled to sovereign immunity. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## AGAPE

From Page 2

Manny Borja and would be chaperoned by Frederick Guintu of ACS and Kacey Deatrich of SIS.

According to Song, who also serves as the leader of the group, the ACS' side of the team is weak when it comes to trigonometry.

"For most of us, [we stumble] more on trigonometry. We all have our specific advantages when it comes to math, but I think we need to know each other more so that when we do our team events, we can assign different questions to members of our team," she said.

Song was able to achieve third place in last year's Mathcourt competition.

"I believe our math skills have improved a lot since last year. I believe we can get a better score than [students] in the mainland," she said.

"I am very proud of them because their hard work is paying off—they practice everyday," said ACS Mathcourt coach Frederick Guintu.

SIS' David Jang believes the team is at an advantage compared to others because the team was similar to last

year's CNMI representatives. He said the team is solid as his teammates compliment one another very well.

"Last year when I went [to compete in Mathleague], I already met the three [from ACS], so I already know them. There is no problem," he said.

"I believe my team can fill in my weaknesses," said Jang, after confessing that he and 2nd placer Myungjae Cho are rather careless when it comes to basic computations.

Mathleague training starts this April 22 at the Mount Carmel School for three consecutive weeks. According to Guintu contestants will head to Iowa on May 18.

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# China-based daughter begs court for father's lenient sentence

The China-based daughter of a man, who entered a guilty plea over an indictment for lying to a federal officer in connection with the preparation of a document needed to process a U.S. passport, has begged for leniency at next week's sentencing hearing.

Attorney Steven Pixley, counsel for defendant Guo Hua Lu, submitted the daughter's letter yesterday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Lu's sentencing will be next Thursday, April 20, at 1:30pm.

The daughter said her father, Lu, has told her that he is extremely embarrassed about his behavior and would not have acted that way.

"My father has suffered a lot from leaving his homeland alone for nearly 20 years," the daughter said, adding that he went to Saipan when she was a child.

She said she and her mother need Lu to be a part of

their lives.

The daughter said Lu has been a hard worker and a wonderful, protective father.

Seven years ago, the daughter arrived on Saipan, where she studied at the Northern Marianas College.

She said at the beginning, her English was poor and that she was worried that people would laugh at her if they could not understand her.

She said Lu helped her in adapting to her new environment by speaking with her in English every day, and that he also encouraged her to speak English with his friends and their neighbors.

The daughter said her English improved a lot, that she got perfect GPA (4.00/4.00) at NMC and earned the chance to transfer to Baruch College in New York.

"After I transferred to Baruch College, my father worked harder to afford the

high expenditures in New York. I would not get my Bachelor's Degree without my father," she said.

Last December, Lu pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with false statement to a federal officer, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years of imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Oct. 6, 2016 in the District of the NMI, Lu knowingly made a statement or representation to special agent Vincent Carpenter of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.

Specifically, Lu told special agent Carpenter that he never supplied, made, or coordinated a single Chinese certificate that was submitted to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan "for processing of Ms. Shi's son."

Lu also told Carpenter that

"I never provided her single certificate, also I have not knowledge that single certificate is true or not. I did help her to get that."

Lu's statements and representations were not true as in fact, he had arranged for the preparation of the single notarial certificate and its subsequent delivery to Saipan from China, in exchange for payment of \$750.

Lu requested that Miss Shi, on whose behalf Lu prepared a U.S. passport application in the name of her (Shi) infant son, send him (Lu) her official Chinese identification card number, U.S. visa, and a passport-sized photo, so that he could arrange for the preparation of the notarial certificate.

The notarial certificate was sent via DHL from Jin Fa Zhou in Fuqing, China, to Lu on Saipan. Lu delivered the DHL envelope containing the notarial certificate

and a completed U.S. passport application for Miss Shi's son to Shi at the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan.

Shi signed the passport application and submitted it to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan.

Subsequent review of the notarial certificate by fraud prevention manager Elizabeth Holcombe of the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, China, established that the notarial certificate was fraudulent.

Holcombe contacted the notary in China from which the

notarial certificate was purportedly issued. The numbers on the notarial certificate and supporting documents did not exist in the notary's records. The name of the notary who purportedly issued the notarial certificate is not a notary of that office. Shi's name did not appear in the notary's records as ever having applied for any notary service.

Lu obtained or arranged another notarial certificate of single status for a prior client, Rui Lui in 2015 was also fraudulent. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## KILILI

From Page 1

administration."

Trump signed an EO to improve immigration enforcement and border security on Jan. 25, 2017, and Sablan believes this could hurt the CNMI's tourism industry.

Sablan said he thanked Torres for informing Trump of the CNMI's current situation. Torres met with Trump on April 4. "Gov. Torres made the economic case for continuing parole directly with President Trump—the first time, I believe, a Marianas governor has met a President in the Oval Office."

"Afterwards, the governor called and I congratulated his success at raising this issue to the highest level."

## MVA

From Page 1

or more is a "major concern for the [CNMI] tourism industry."

"It's a black eye on our reputation as a beach resort destination. We seek to dialogue with CBP leaders on what can be done to alleviate the long waits at CBP," reiterated Concepcion.

MVA, like CPA, has been continuously attempting to resolve or alleviate the long immigration lines at the airport. The latter has a flight schedule in the works that seeks to spread out flights all throughout the day so as not to congest tourist arrivals.

MVA, on the other hand, has funded four automated passport control machines, or APC machines, worth \$75,000 for use at the airport and is expected to "arrive any day now."

Along with the APC machines, the airport was able to acquire chairs and televisions for the tourists. CPA has also allowed their vendor to sell refreshments to passengers as they wait in line.

According to Concepcion, these efforts are still lacking as

Sablan added that he also met with Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly to also inform him on what Torres raised to Trump.

"Also about the importance of Chinese tourism to the Marianas, and about the misuse of CW permits, which the governor and I raised in our letter of March 16. I look forward to continuing to work together with the Governor on these important issues."

The growing concern on the China parole authority is also brought about on the issue of more than 1,000 Chinese tourists who entered the CNMI but worked illegally. Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) has introduced House Bill 20-57 in the CNMI Legislature that seeks to penalize companies that bring in foreign workers illegally.

the problem is mainly due to the shortage of CBP personnel.

"The overall concern is the limited number of personnel stationed in Saipan and what CBP plans to do about it," said Concepcion.

"We've been working closely with CPA and the local CBP office and we've seen some positive results so far."

"With the MVA purchasing APC machines, we continue to see more improvements at the Saipan International Airport," he added.

Humphrey met yesterday with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and both of the CNMI legislative branches.

What was discussed between the government officials have yet to be disclosed but a message from the Torres administration told *Saipan Tribune* that it would be kept posted when the administration is ready to release contents of the discussions along with information related to Torres' trip to Washington, D.C. and a recap of the State of the Commonwealth Address.

Humphrey is set to meet with other government agencies today, including CPA, MVA, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

## Guam governor wants feds to address foreign worker visas

**HAGATNA, Guam** (AP)—Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo has announced his administration no longer supports the U.S. military buildup on the island because of the federal government's high rate of denials for temporary foreign worker visa applications.

Calvo said Thursday the government's decision to deny nearly all H-2B visas has resulted in a worker shortage and a potential economic downturn for the island, *The Pacific Daily News* reported. He cited recent construction projects that never received

bids due to a lack of workers as well as the rising costs of homebuilding.

"The biggest obstacle to prosperity on Guam has not been any local politician, but the federal government," Calvo said. "We cannot afford to wait any longer."

He accused the government of not keeping up "with its part of the bargain" and said there has been a breach in an agreement to "ensure Guam is not negatively impacted by the shift in military forces."

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo acknowledged Cal-

vo's concerns but said Guam could benefit from the military buildup, which would involve shifting as many as 5,000 U.S. Marines from Japan to the Mariana Islands in Dededo, Guam.

"We have invested heavily in supporting this buildup and while there have been challenges along the way, we continue to make progress to ensure that it is good for Guam and our people," Bordallo said. "Turning back now may jeopardize this progress, which includes significant civilian infrastructure investments."

## OVERSTAYING

From Page 1

ture yesterday, said although there's no specific breakdown of those who illegally overstayed it is safe to say that most of them were Chinese.

"There's no specific breakdown but we safely believe that a large number of those who unlawfully overstayed have the sole purpose of illegally working here. A number of those 1,032 come here under the Chinese parole," said Humphrey.

"Some of these illegal workers had already left. For how long they stayed? It varies. But anyone that exceeds the 45 days, authorized by the [Department of Homeland Security] Secretary, overstayed. We work closely with DHS investigators and the task force."

Humphrey said that additional consequences should be imposed for anyone that came into the CNMI as tourists, overstayed, and worked illegally. The same also should

be done to those who enter the CNMI illegally.

He added that these actions done by some tourists had an adverse effect and would be inconvenient to other visitors whose sole purpose is for vacation and relaxation.

Humphrey said DHS' primary responsibility is for all inland enforcement actions. "We're working with [DHS] and have an agreement with them that if they come across individuals that have overstayed, they are going to bring that to our attention."

"Of course, we share information on those that have illegally overstayed. We would then work with them to cooperatively having these individuals who overstayed removed."

He said they would then revoke the parole authority of violators and send them home. "Those who violated are removed and the airlines that brought them here are ultimately responsible in providing space for them to return."

### Concern for CNMI

House Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) and Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan) are united in saying that steps should be taken to put an end to the practice of hiring workers that enter the CNMI as tourists. They said it would gravely affect the CNMI's tourism industry.

"What we are facing today is something that we can't just sit down and wait. We need to take drastic measures over this and try to resolve it at the earliest possible time so we could provide convenience to our visitors," said Maratita.

"Bear in mind that [the Marianas Visitors Authority] and [the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands] said we're seeing growth in tourism. If this would be factored in, it won't look good. It would have a devastating affect to us and there goes our economy. Again, we have to work together and try to resolve these issues for the sake of tourists."

Sablan added that some of CBP's roles are protecting



# Imperial Pacific Resort will offer international gaming experience

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

More than 300 gaming tables and machines spread out in a casino floor area of 140,000 square meters would greet the first visitors of Imperial Pacific Resort, once it gets the green light to open its doors to the public.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC Marketing and Public Affairs director David Largent, during

Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall, said they would make an announcement of the casino's opening once they have secured all necessary clearance certificates. He also invited SCC officials and members for a tour of the casino.

The casino would feature 48 baccarat tables where most of which are for their VIP clients. The VIP tables are currently part of the mass gaming floor

as they are trying to finish the construction of the second phase, which will have a separate area for their high rollers.

Casino Table Games director Scott Morrow said that the soon-to-be-opened gaming floor would feature two of the world's most popular casino card games—Baccarat, Blackjack, and Texas Hold 'Em Poker—and areas reserved for VIPs, which is IPI's core target market.

Baccarat alone will have 48 tables, including two VIP salons with the option of adding 12 more VIP tables in the future. Their VIP rooms come

complete with their own casino cage where one can make all of their transactions without leaving the room.

Four baccarat tables, a pit stand, card cabinets, and an exclusive cage are some of the features that can be found inside the VIP rooms, which is also reserved for Imperial VIP Club members.

"The exclusive cage makes it easy for our VIP guests to make the transactions with no more trips outside the room. I'm very excited about this. There are also situations in VIP areas where guests could either play by them-

selves or within small groups that gives them more elbow room," said Morrow.

He added the membership club is important to the business since they could easily get in touch with their clients, guests, and players. "To let them know of our big offerings and events that are coming up. It gives us the opportunity to invite them to avail of our special offerings."

Morrow said Blackjack and Texas Hold 'Em, a variation of the poker card game, are also two of the popular games in the mainland with the latter also gaining a huge

following in Asia.

Imperial Pacific Resort will have six Blackjack tables while two for live Texas Hold 'Em games with the casino floor having the ability to expand it to eight tables if there would be more players.

They also have two roulette, eight units of the sic bo or tai sai dice game, poker derivative carnival games—Fortune pai gow and three-card poker—and the Caribbean Stud or will soon be locally known as Saipan Stud, which is a type of poker game played against the house rather than against other players.

## Man gets one year in jail for stealing truck, causing collision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A man accused of stealing a pickup truck from an auto shop in Gualo Rai last December that resulted in a collision with another vehicle along Chalan Kiya Drive, entered a guilty plea last week and was slapped with a one-year imprisonment.

Ryan R. Pua, 32, pleaded guilty to a traffic offense of theft of vehicle.

As part of the plea agreement, assistant attorney general Jonathan L. Wilberscheid, counsel for the government, moved to dismiss the remaining traffic charges of reckless driving (no injuries) and driving while under the influence of alcohol.

The Office of the Attorney General originally filed a criminal case against Pua, but later amended it to a traffic case.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho accepted the defendant's guilty plea and sentenced him to the maximum of five years imprisonment, all suspended except one year, to be served day for day without the possibility of parole or early release.

After completing the prison term, Pua will be placed on probation for two years.

Pua was given credit of 110 days of time served. He was required to pay a \$1,000 fine, \$25 in court costs, and \$200 in probation fee.

The defendant was ordered to perform 100 hours of community work service. He may perform the community work service at the Department of Corrections if DOC rules and policies allow.

The government was given 90 days to submit a request for a restitution hearing.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Pua operated or stole a vehicle belonging to Eduardo Mariano Yalung on Dec. 27,

2016 on Saipan.

Last January, assistant public defender Nancy A. Dominiski, counsel for Pua, moved the court to issue an order appointing an expert in the field of psychiatry to evaluate defendant's current mental state.

The following month, Dominiski requested the court to withdraw the motion for a competency determination. Camacho granted the motion to withdraw.

Police said that on Dec. 27, 2016 in the afternoon, Yalung approached two police officers at XO Market in Gualo Rai and asked them to chase his Toyota Hilux, which had just been stolen from his shop five minutes ago.

The two officers gave chase to the truck that headed southbound on Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The officers lost sight of the truck.

The Department of Public Safety then sent out a bulletin to alert officers to be on the lookout for a Toyota Hilux with license plate ACS-176.

Yalung told police that he had just arrived at his Tech Auto repair shop after purchasing some parts and parked his vehicle by the entrance of the shop, turned off the ignition but left the key inside.

A few minutes later, Yalung heard the engine of his truck start and saw it leaving the area being driven by a man, later identified as Pua.

Later that same afternoon, police officers responded to Chalan Kiya Drive, where a vehicular crash occurred. Upon arrival at the scene, police learned that it was Pua who was the driver of the stolen truck and caused the crash that damaged the truck and another vehicle.

The driver of the other vehicle told police that the Hilux was speeding when Pua lost control and struck his vehicle. Pua was found under the influence of alcohol.

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# Lawmakers raise alarm on criminal activities

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two minority House members are alarmed on the spate of criminal activities that have happened recently, particularly robberies in Dandan including a homicide case in the said village.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), who is one of the six lawmakers of Precinct 1 where Dandan is located, and minority leader Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), from Precinct 3, expressed concern on everyone's safety

based on the recent events.

Propst and Villagomez said the Department of Public Safety should increase their police presence especially in villages where it is needed most. They added the public has also the right to know of any heinous crime took place after DPS released information of Jim Nimwes' death more than a week after he was killed due to blunt force trauma.

They questioned DPS why it took them more than a week to release information on what happened to Nim-

wes, who was then on duty as a security guard in one of the poker arcades in Dandan when he was killed.

"Time went by and they only released information more than a week later. Why did DPS take so long and why did they not let the Dandan neighborhood know about it? If someone is murdered, you want information ASAP. This is a huge concern, to have no information and have it released 10 days after," said Propst.

Villagomez added people have the right to know if in-

cidents like this happen. "You want to know who got murdered or if there are any suspects. We need to inform the people so they could be safe after someone got killed."

"You don't have to release any details but at least acknowledge that something happened. Like if a dead body was found, is this a suspicious incident or if there's foul play," said Villagomez.

"This is unprecedented and I never heard of it before. A murder was committed but what happened was the public was informed 10 days later,"

added Propst.

Burglaries and other forms of theft is also their concern, especially for Propst after several houses in Dandan were robbed, even in broad daylight. Even Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Luis John Castro had been a victim of a robbery when their home in Fina Sisu was burglarized twice.

Propst said robberies even happen when people are at home. "Criminals become so bold they don't care now if there are people or no. Where's the police presence, where's the patrol? We don't see them."

"What I do know is that there's a lot of overtime for our officers, but where are they? Our constituents in the villages don't feel safe anymore and 90 percent don't feel safe even if they are in their homes," said Propst, who added that some houses in Dandan Village are separated by huge distances.

Villagomez said that even Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, in one of their conversations, mentioned Dandan as a dangerous area. "I've talked to Judge Govendo one time and asked him, 'what do you think is the dangerous village on Saipan based on the cases you've heard—whether involved in domestic violence?'"

"[Judge Govendo] told me, 'I have to say Dandan. The past few weeks Dandan was a hot spot.' And that is

pretty sad to know it is all messed up."

Propst said that their house in Dandan has a security system and cameras installed, and they have dogs, and a fence. "Once our dogs bark, I'm up with my machete and ax ready to go to battle. What a way to live. All are messed up."

"We used to sleep with our windows open, to let the breeze come in. Now we have to close it and turn on our air-conditioning unit. We want to make sure all the windows and everything are locked, and the alarm system is set before we sleep at night."

Villagomez said if DPS and other concerned agencies should just ask for more funding if they think they lack the money in fulfilling their duties. "What's also funny every budget season is we have agencies that come and yell at [the Legislature]. They would come to us and say: 'you don't understand the hardships that we go through.'"

"They give their budget proposal to the governor. But if the governor submits his, they would say they are okay with it. They never say anything. They would say they are okay with the governor's budget and then complain later."

"If you're okay to operate on this budget, then that ends the meeting. For me, what's the use of meeting for six hours where the only that you're going to do is keep the amount," added Villagomez.

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## Motorist sues over boom truck collision

A man has filed a lawsuit allegedly over the injuries he suffered when a boom truck collided with the back of his vehicle along Isa Drive on Saipan last August.

John B. Matsumoto is suing the boom truck's owner, RJCL Corp., which is doing business as RNV Construction, and the driver, Raynaldo N. Alfonso, for negligence.

Matsumoto, through counsel Bruce Berline, asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages and court costs. He demanded a jury trial.

*Saipan Tribune* tried but failed yesterday to get comments from RNV Construction and Alfonso.

According to Berline in the complaint, on Aug. 2, 2016 in the afternoon, Matsumoto was driving his 2008 Honda Ridgeline west on Isa Drive when he stopped at a red light at the intersection of Isa Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold.

Alfonso, an employee of RNV, was driving a 1996 Kia Rhino boom truck westward

on Isa Drive, approaching the intersection. He began to apply the brakes in order to slow down the boom truck.

Berline said Alfonso's efforts to stop the boom truck failed and it collided with the back of Matsumoto's vehicle.

Berline said after the boom truck came to a halt, smoke was seen coming from the boom truck's wheels.

The lawyer said at the time of the collision, the weather was clear and the road surface was dry.

Berline said the collision caused extensive damage to Matsumoto's vehicle and caused him "significant bodily injury and mental pain, distress and anguish."

Berline said the crash and resulting injuries and damages sustained by Matsumoto was caused by RNV and Alfonso negligently inspecting, operating, maintaining and/or controlling the boom truck.

The Superior Court has given RNV and Alfonso until April 17 to file their response to the lawsuit. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)





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## FOR HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE

## Hyatt Charity Golf Classic receives Toyota pre-runner

The Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic received a Toyota 2017 Pre-Runner 4x4 access cab, standard transmission and 4 cylinders with a manufacturer's value of \$34,699.

This brand new Toyota 2017 Pre-Runner will be located in hole No. 13 as a hole-in-one prize for one lucky golfer on the day of the tournament on April 22, 2017. Atkins-Kroll's contribution of the 2017 Toyota Pre-Runner qualifies the company as a Platinum event partner—the highest partnership level across the tournament.

Proceeds from the event will go to support the six beneficiaries in their mission to improve the quality of life for those within our island community. The Make-A-Wish Foundation, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening diseases; Kagman High School Million Dollar Club, supporting CNMI high school students in preparation and travel to higher education; Marianas Behavioral Health International, a rehabilitation center dedicated to provide support for those who want to make a positive change in their lives; Karidat Social Services, a local organization supporting the needs of the community; Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, which assists impoverished women and children of the CNMI; and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council with a goal to focus on supporting the education of indigenous



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associate Liza Taylor, Hyatt Regency Marketing Communications manager MariaValentina Haberman, Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associate Nicole Sablan, Hyatt Regency Food and Beverage director Tyrell Pauling, Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales manager Glen V. Perez, Atkins-Kroll Saipan general manager Douglas A. Brennan, and Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associate Naum Vekhov pose for a group photo.

cultures of the CNMI.

With generous donations from event sponsors, the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic has an array of prizes from designer handbags to high-end golf gear to hole-in-one prizes as the 2017 Toyota Pre-Runner to round-trip tickets to Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea, and Europe that will be paired with hotel nights at other Hyatt and Hyatt Regency hotels. Prize and packages one may not find at any other tournament.

At Hyatt, the belief in fulfilling our purpose first begins with caring for others so they can be their best—at work and beyond. That is at the core of the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic, because

there is no better place to start to care for others than within our own community. Hyatt Regency Saipan is grateful for the continual support from Atkins-Kroll Saipan for sharing in the mission of caring for others beginning with the island community.

"The mission of Hyatt—to care for others in our community is one Atkins-Kroll Saipan shares. We strongly believe in community involvement. After all, it's what keeps our economy thriving. Learning there are six beneficiaries for the tournament this year, and each a nonprofit organization with a purpose to improve the quality of life of members in our community. This was an opportunity we could not

pass. Here at AK Saipan we are proud to offer the most popular light truck on the island as a hole-in-one prize for this year's 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic. We commend Hyatt Regency Saipan for their dedication on an annual basis to organize a noteworthy charitable golf tournament and by far one of the most popular events on island for golfers. Best of luck to each golfer on the greens!" said Doug Brennan, general manager of Atkins-Kroll Saipan.

When Atkins-Kroll Saipan first opened its doors in 1967 the company supplied various products to Micronesia. Seeing a need for automobiles on the island of Saipan and Micronesia, Atkins-Kroll Saipan shifted

its focus and established itself in the automotive market holding the brand names of Toyota cars—Scion, Chevrolet, and Lexus. Nevertheless, from the inception until today, Atkins-Kroll Saipan's main focus is customer service more so customer satisfaction and that is why many on island are repeat customers of Atkins-Kroll Saipan, not only the reliable brand name vehicles they retail but the customer relation and satisfaction.

"This year is a significant year for us as a part of the Charity Golf Classic; it marks our 21st anniversary, and, we are grateful for the support of

Atkins-Kroll Saipan for their generous donation. We hope one lucky golfer makes that shot on the greens come the 22nd of April and gets to drive the new Toyota Pre-Runner home. The support of Atkins-Kroll alongside other event sponsors is what makes our mission of caring for our community possible," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

Early Bird registration is open until Monday, April 17, 2016 at 4pm for a rate of \$100 per golfer. Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic event at Laolao Bay Golf and Resort West Course. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Hyatt Regency Saipan event page website: <http://bit.ly/2jF0MEen>.

For more information please contact +1 670 234 1234 ext. 26. (Hyatt)

## Yellow Pages Ink phonebook roundup contest extended to May 21

Yellow Pages Ink and IT&E announce the extension of the competition deadline to May 21. Running its first year in the CNMI, IT&E and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality have teamed up with Yellow Pages Ink and public and private schools to recycle old phonebooks printed in previous years.

IT&E chief operating officer John Compton states that more schools are participating in the event as one of many

initiatives to begin more sustainable business practices.

"IT&E wants to reiterate that the phonebook roundup is an event to bring awareness to the importance of recycling and the reduction of waste. We invite the community to join us to advocate and help our schools and the youth practice sustainability. We hope that recovering old phonebooks and recycling the paper into reusable items will strengthen the need to

preserve and protect our environment. Our program began in February and will now end in May and hopefully continue annually," Compton said.

Schools who haven't registered for the competition are welcomed to join. Participants will have a chance to win up to \$5,000 in cash prizes. All schools are asked to collect, count, and temporarily store all old phone books and contact a BECQ representative to

coordinate the collection. A receipt will be issued to each entrant for the number of books deposited.

BECQ reminds participants that phonebooks must be dry, clean, and not contaminated. Current 2017 phonebooks are not eligible for collection.

For more information regarding the Phone Book Roundup, please call 664-8505, 664-8545 or email [juaniguel@becq.gov.mp](mailto:juaniguel@becq.gov.mp) or [daisy.demapan@itehq.net](mailto:daisy.demapan@itehq.net). (PR)

## Nominations sought for MINA's 'Green Awards'

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for its "Green Awards" which will be presented at the organization's annual Green Gala event on Sept. 8, 2017. The Green Awards recognize individuals, companies, and schools who promote environmental stewardship and are committed to the preservation of the Commonwealth's precious natural resources, as follows:

■ **The Environmental Cham-**

**pion Award:** Given to an individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of our natural resources.

■ **The Environmental Heroes Award:** Given to a school, public or private, whose dedication to the environment is echoed through its students and all the work that they do in protecting our natural resources.

■ **The Green Business of**

**the Year:** Given to a business that is committed to conservation incorporated the green business culture through its entire organization.

To submit nominations, please send the following information to MINA, attention Roberta Guerrero by email: [rguerrero.mina@gmail.com](mailto:rguerrero.mina@gmail.com), or mail to MINA, P.O. Box 506645, Saipan MP 96950. You may also drop your nominations at MINA's office located on the

ground floor of Gualo Rai Center. Nominations must include: 1) your name and contact information; 2) your nominee and the category you are nominating in; and 3) at least a one page narrative explaining why your nominee should receive a Green Award. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2017.

For more information, please contact Roberta Guerrero at [rguerrero.mina@gmail.com](mailto:rguerrero.mina@gmail.com) or (670) 233-7333. (MINA)

## Team Busch Nights tops Quiz Nite VI

Team Busch Nights was the champion during ASCNMI's Quiz Nite VI held recently at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Room.

They took out Team Hokkaido and Team Ikaika, who settled for second place and third places, respectively. Team Hokkaido took the early lead, but lost it to Busch Nights around the third round with the category S.I.L.C. ASCNMI's Quiz Nite VI was awesome and everyone had a good time.

It was reported wrong that Team Ikaika won Quiz Nite V. It was actually Team Beauties and the Beasts. This year Team Beauties and the Beasts did not show.

All in attendance were in agreement that the food was good and the teams were big, and one team even had two tables. There were raffle prizes, and all sorts of giveaways. Thank you to the following donors: D&Q Distributors, S.Y.P. and the Chamber, Mar-Pac, Pacifica Insurance, and Godfather's Bar.

Thank you to our judges

Jeanne Rayphand, Jimmy Sablan, and Emet Fitial. Process observers were Cleo Nening and Ana Manibusan.

Thank you to Julie Pagcaliwagan, ASCNMI treasurer and Romeo Cuellar, ASCNMI vice president.

Organizers are gearing up for ASCNMI's Quiz Nite 1 Tinian on April 22 from 6pm to 9pm at the Antonio Manglona Borja Amphitheatre. The Hot Dog Walk, Run and Roll, and Family Picnic will also take place on April 23 from 3:30pm to sunset at the Tachonga Park. Also on Tinian, the CNMI Office on Transportation Authority will be there to give out information!

ASCNMI's Quiz Nite 1 Rota, meanwhile, will be held on May 6 from 6pm to 9pm at the Dr. Rita Inos Junior Senior High Cafeteria. The island's Hot Dog Walk, Run, Roll, Mini-Marathon, and Family Fun Day are all set for May 7. The events will take place at the baseball field to the end of the pavement and back. (PR)



# 'Libraries are trusted and treasured institutions'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kbautista1222@gmail.com  
REPORTER

A proclamation signing was held last week to designate a week for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and a day for its bookmobile.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog signed a proclamation last Thursday designating the week from April 9 to April 15 to honor the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the only public library on Saipan.

According to the proclamation signed by Hocog, libraries are an investment for the advancement of the islands. Libraries were established as an institution that provides that are trust worthy and treasurable.

Librarians are experts on the information stored inside the library. They are there to assist people to obtain the best informative resources that that library has to offer.

This year, JKPL will go beyond the ordinary roles of its institution. The library will be opening new opportunities to get the community to

take part in its activities. The library will be providing services that will meet the needs of the people.

JKPL supports change and equality. According to the proclamation, the library is committed to providing access of information to every one regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, or economic status.

In celebration of National Library Week, JKPL will be hosting a series of events.

The events that the library will host will be free library card day, slide show presentation, face-painting & book-mark making, cooking demo, National Library Workers Appreciation Day Service Recognition Ceremony, Photoshopping class, free blood pressure monitoring outreach, National Bookmobile Day, and many more to be announced.

To kick off the start of Library Week, JKPL issued free library cards last Sunday. Citizens with no fines in their record were allowed to apply

for a library card for free.

Also last Sunday the library had a slide show presentation.

A Face Painting & Book-mark Making activity was also held yesterday. Participants met at the Children's Library for fun face painting and creating and coloring bookmarks for library books.

Northern Marianas College's CREES Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) also held a Healthy Cooking Demo at the library yesterday.

The slew of events contin-

ue today with the commemoration of National Library Workers Appreciation Day. The library will hold a Service Recognition Ceremony. NLWD is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

The library will also be holding a Photoshop Class today from 2pm to 4pm. This class will cover the basic essentials you need to start editing photos like a pro.

Also from 3pm to 4:30pm

today, the NMC Nursing Club will be offering a free Blood Pressure Monitoring Outreach at the library. The meet up will be at the Young Adults section of the library.

The proclamation also designated tomorrow, Wednesday, April 12, as National Bookmobile Day. In celebration, the library encourages the community to join as they celebrate the nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated library professionals who provide services to the community.

Bookmobile Day is an opportunity for bookmobile fans to make their support known through thanking bookmobile staff, writing a letter, or emailing their libraries.

The library's Bookmobile will be en route to visit all Saipan public school libraries, select private schools, the Office on Aging (Man'amko Center), and the Juvenile Detention Unit.

The library has many more events throughout the month of April that are yet to be announced.

## BECQ chief urges community not to litter

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kbautista1222@gmail.com  
REPORTER

Residents of the Commonwealth are urged not to litter with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality tasked to finally implement the decades-old anti-littering law.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said the CNMI's current anti-littering law was drafted in 1996 and it appoints officers and different agencies to enforce anti-littering. The responsibility to give citations to all those who litter were also stated in the first draft of the law. It did not matter if it was an accident or not, any type of littering was considered as an offense. The law did not just establish officers, but it also implemented training for the appointed officers.

Officers were appointed from the appointed agencies. Agencies included in the first draft were the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Department of Land and Natural Resource, and the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

Since 1996, when the first law was implemented, until 2008 the appointed agencies of the anti-littering law saw that the law was not being enforced. There were only a few citations and more appointed officers.

The officers did not implement the first draft because

the fine for littering was \$200 and it was a fixed amount. For some people it was a jail sentence and unfair if the offense was not as great. This led to a revision in 2009, according to Rabauliman.

The revision included more appointed agencies including the Division of Coastal Resource Management (precursor of BECQ) and Department of Public Lands.

The revision also included that a judge is now able to use his or her discretion regarding how much the fine will be for based on the person's offense. Appointed officers are still responsible of giving out citations, but they are no longer in charge of how much the fine will be.

In the revised law, the fine ranges from \$25 to \$5,000. The judge will base the fine off of how many times the person has been given a citation regarding littering, and how great the offense is.

The revised law (Public Law 19-53) also states that half of the collections from the citations will go back to the account of the BECQ to be able to continue the anti-littering programs. The other half will go to the general funds of the CNMI. The first draft stated that all the collections would go to the general fund.

According to Rabauliman, it took a long time before the revision was implemented. The revised anti-littering law was finally implemented just last year.

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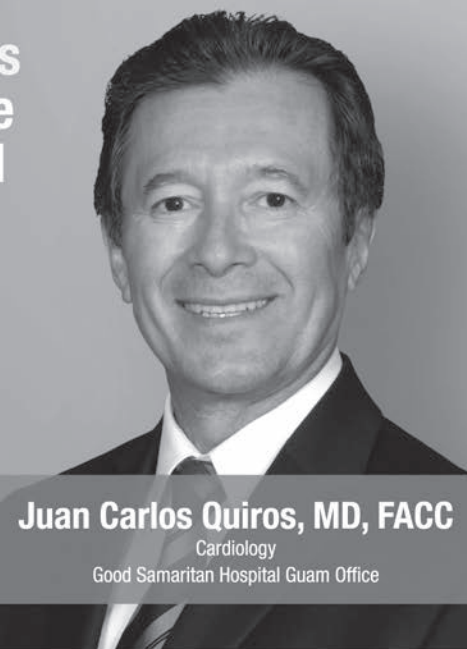


"This ad has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

**Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island May 1-3, 2017.**

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# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 71Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
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### EDITORIAL

## Wait and see after missiles fall

**T**he video from a chemical attack had horrified viewers worldwide, but the war in Syria has reliably delivered many other atrocities for six years.

This reign or even rain of death, though, was enough to provoke a new U.S. president. No drawing red lines, no waiting until they're crossed to painstakingly decide whether to fulfill a threat. With dozens of Tomahawk missiles, Donald Trump has disrupted the world's long, inconclusive debate over what, if anything, to do about Bashar al-Assad.

This attack won't dislodge Assad or help the all but defeated rebel forces take control of the fractured country. But if it diminishes his air power, it also could reduce his ability to poison, crush and dismember his own people. To an important extent, though, this attack is about more than Assad and questions of how to deal with a vicious despot. It's about President Donald Trump. On a geopolitical plane, it tells Vladimir Putin that he isn't the only president who'll take risks in Syria.

The world's rulers and diplomats aren't accustomed to that sort of unilateral gambit from Washington. If Trump wanted to assert that he isn't his predecessor — much as Barack Obama found ways to prove he wasn't beholden to the style of George W. Bush — firing Tomahawks at a Russian ally's air assets will make the distinction. Whatever the back-channel advance alerts to world capitals, Trump didn't publicly signal to his adversaries that he would take military action on such-and-such schedule. Thursday was rife with rumors of an impending attack. But Assad likely was as surprised as the rest of us by the first missile's impact.

On Wednesday, Trump had reacted angrily to the gassing of Syrians, including children and babies. He acknowledged that Assad crossed "many, many lines" and suggested that there would be repercussions. His administration carried forward that threat on Thursday. If Trump had done nothing but fume, the president at some point would have looked wobbly. Powerless.

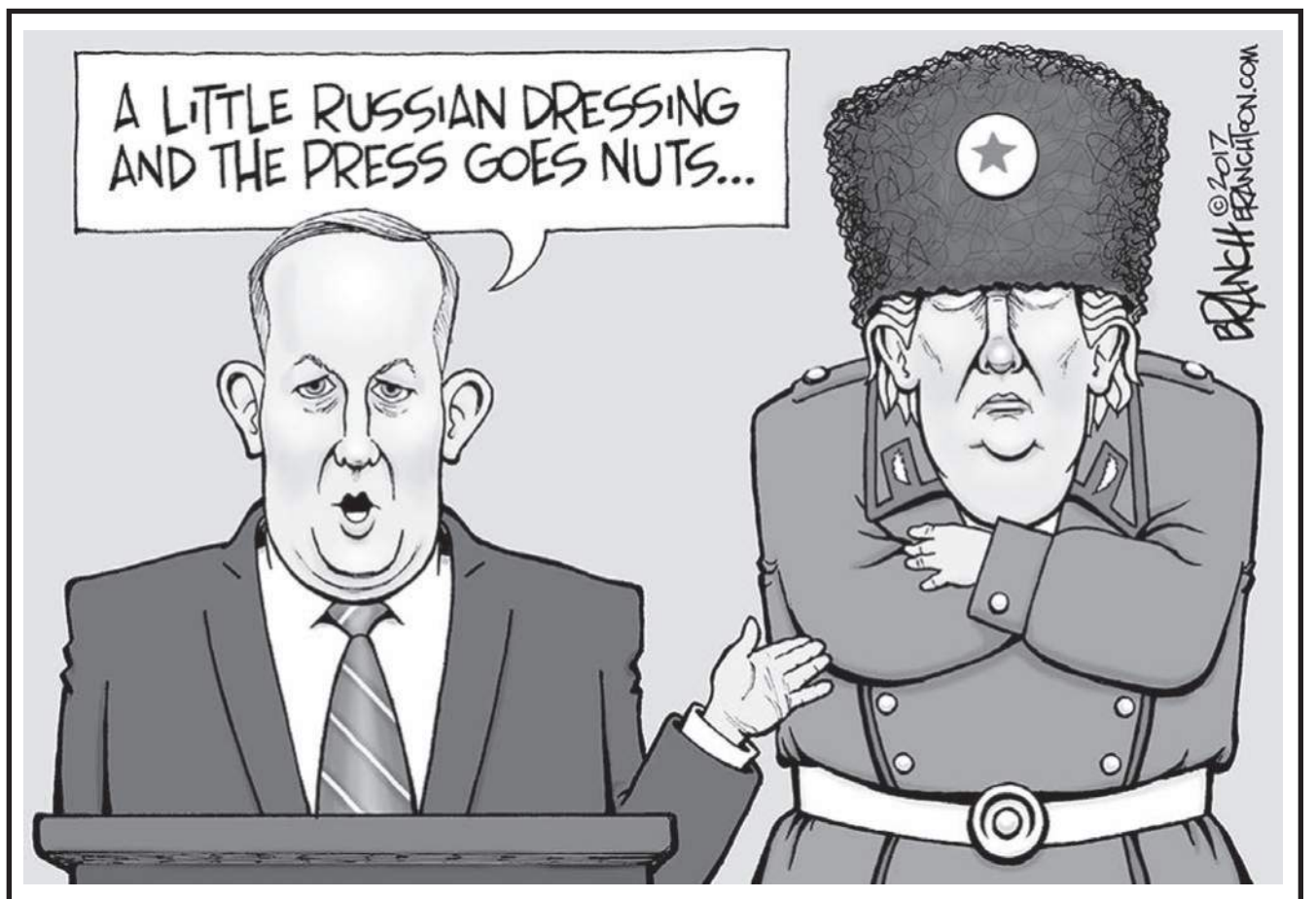
In this case, of course, there is unfortunate history. In 2012, President Barack Obama declared his red line in the sand to Assad, but he didn't follow through when Assad's regime killed some 1,400 people in a chemical weapons assault on Damascus. That brought U.S. credibility into question. Trump likely made the calculation that if the Syrian government launched another despicable chemical attack on its own people, he was going to make an issue of it — and would have to follow through with a proportional punishment. Otherwise, Assad and others of his ilk would figure chemical warfare is a useful tool.

But what happens next? Will Assad take the hint and stop the use of chemical weapons banned throughout the world? Or will he, backed by Putin, again deploy his air force to bomb civilians? The conflict escalates from here or — not.

Pentagon planners famously war-game such scenarios. But the wily Assad is still in power six years after Obama famously said he "must go." He's withstood years of conflict and slipped the grasp of U.N. inspectors tasked with making sure he disposed of all of his chemical weapons. By continuing to use them, he's mocked those who believed he had surrendered them.

No one, not Americans or any allies, knew how an untested commander in chief with a history of shooting from the lip

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## No, Congress doesn't need to first declare war

**S**o now President Donald Trump is a war leader. His decision to launch 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles across an international border is an act of war. And, like most of America's wars, it will never be declared by Congress.

Immediately upon the news of the Syria strike breaking Thursday night, Twitter erupted with complaints that the U.S. Constitution vests the power to declare war only in Congress. This common worry misapprehends both the structure of the Constitution and the historical understanding of the declaration of war.

Let's start with the obvious: Every U.S. president, all the way back to the founding, has at some point used military force without first obtaining the approval of the legislative branch. A few snippets: George Washington fought the so-called Northwest Indian War to subdue the native people of Ohio. James Monroe sent forces to conquer Amelia Island, off Florida. James Buchanan sent Marines to halt the civil war in Nicaragua. In 1893, U.S. forces overthrew the government of Hawaii, although apparently without White House permission. Still, the overthrow stuck. On the eve of World War I, Woodrow Wilson ordered the Marines into Mexico. Half a century later Ronald Reagan invaded Grenada. Most prominently, in the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John Kennedy took the nation to the brink of nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

More recent history is much the same. In 2011, the White House justified President Barack Obama's orders to attack Libya with the remarkable argument that because U.S. forces were conducting only bombing and using missiles, the actions did not constitute "hostilities" within the meaning of the War Powers Resolution of 1973 — a statute requiring that hostilities end within 90 days if no congressional approval is forthcoming.

True, presidents often claim to find justification for their wars in the language of existing statutes and resolutions. President Obama relied regularly on the Authorization for Use of Military Force adopted by the Congress after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. That resolution is now more than a decade and a half old, but I have no doubt that the Trump White House will soon be citing it as legal authority.

But what about the congressional power to declare war? Scholars nowadays are sharply divided over whether the Framers intended it as a check on the executive's "independent" war-making authority. Certainly at the time of the founding, the use of a formal declaration of war had fallen into desuetude. Yes, there is a reasonable case to be made that the Framers did indeed hope to restrict presidential use of the military without congressional assent. (That's one reason for the early resistance to a standing army.) But the new nation did not behave as though a declaration was necessary. (Abraham Lincoln's famous aphorism that the country should never go to war through the will of one man was a response to President James Polk's invasion of Mexico somewhat in advance of congressional permission.)

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**

Bloomberg View

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Even 19th- and early 20th-century thinkers who considered a declaration of war to be important did not argue that it was constitutionally required. The reason a declaration should be made, wrote the prominent lawyer Daniel Chauncey Brewer in the 1890s, was that without it "neither enemies, friends, nor neutrals can be properly forewarned." The function of a declaration of war, wrote Yale's Simeon Baldwin as World War I erupted, was to create or announce the "legal condition of things."

It's because of the need to give notice of hostilities that the Dutch lawyer and philosopher Grotius, in his 17th-century treatise, condemned the use of force without formal declaration of war. By the early 20th century, largely as a result of actual practice, the treatises on international law had largely reduced this notion to a requirement that hostilities be preceded by either a declaration or an active controversy between the belligerents. In both cases the worry was about surprise attack. The declaration of war gave formal warning that diplomatic means had been exhausted, so that both enemies and neutrals should now be prepared for the worst.

But that need for formal warning is the relic of an era of more difficult communications. President Trump and President Obama both warned Syria. President George W. Bush warned both Afghanistan and Iraq. The world braced for action. The warning function, in short, is nowadays carried out by less formal but still effective means.

I have argued in the past that the declaration of war clause in the Constitution represents an effort to limit the president's ability to undertake an "offensive" war — what 18th-century tradition would have been understood as a war for conquest or glory. Perhaps you find that reading too narrow. Still, the lessons of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter hold: In the end, the meaning of the Constitution is largely determined by how the political branches of the federal government act over time.

And over time, the power to declare war has become a dead letter.

Still, the Congress possesses considerable powers to prevent the president from making war should it choose to exercise them. In particular, the House and the Senate can vote to cut off funding, as they did in 1973, overriding a presidential veto of a

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## ‘They’ is here, so get used to it

**M**aybe it’s because it’s a four-letter word. All I know is that, for a pronoun, the word “they” can sure tick a lot of people off.

It has been downright fascinating to watch people from both ends of the political spectrum break down and start foaming at the mouth over the prospect of using “they” as a replacement for “he” or “she” for people who consider themselves to be gender non-binary.

What else are we going to call someone who doesn’t identify as a woman or man? Apparently not a plural pronoun.

Just consider the uproar over the case out of Berkeley, in which a University of California student, Pablo Gomez Jr., was accused of brutally stabbing an elementary school teacher to death. When *Berkeleyside.com* reported that Gomez preferred to be called “they” rather than “he,” an incensed mob descended on the tiny news site, overwhelming its servers. And that was before Breitbart got ahold of the story.

Then there was the backlash from multiple quarters over an announcement from the grammar gurus at the Associated Press. It’s now OK, they’ve decided, for journalists to use “they” as a singular pronoun for people who identify as neither male nor female.

The reaction from some of my more seasoned colleagues ranged from a slightly hysterical “oh my god” to a calm, but firm, “No, we have to find another way.”

I get it. About six months ago, when my partner told me that a friend preferred to be called “they” instead of “she,” I shook my head and immediately climbed on my high horse. “Journalists,” I told her, “are never going to use the word ‘they’ as a singular pronoun. It’s too confusing.”

She smiled knowingly. “Yes, they will. It’s already mainstream.”

“No,” I shouted, “it’s not!”

Yeah, well, maybe it is. Apparently, The Washington Post has been using “they” as a gender neutral pronoun since 2015. Then there’s that gender non-binary character on the Showtime series “Billions” who prefers “they.”

It’s no wonder then that “they” has become a thing. But seriously, why all the sustained anger? It’s just a word, right?

I talked to my friend Jae Antonio, who prefers “they,” but usually goes by “she” in professional settings. “It’s easier and people just don’t get it,” Jae said. Jae gets regular pedicures and arched eyebrows, but only wears men’s clothing and sometimes feels more masculine. Why a pronoun is so hard for some people, they have no idea.

“People think I’m wishy-washy, but some days I’m like no. I just don’t like to be labeled. That’s the bottom line.”

It’s just one more sign that times are changing. That gender, once so certain, with blue clothes for boys and pink clothes for girls, not to mention gendered bathrooms, is no longer so simple.

To a lot of people gender means male and female. To others it includes sexual orientation and gender identity. To many younger people those social constructs are no longer adequate. A recent poll conducted for GLAAD’s annual “Accelerating Acceptance 2017” report bears that out.

When asked, 2 percent of millennials identified as pansexual — meaning not limited in sexual choice to biological sex, gender or gender identity — and 1 percent as unsure or questioning. That means that at least 3 percent of people ages 18 to 34 probably would prefer to be identified as “they,” not “he” or “she.”

About 6 percent said they identified as bisexual, 4 percent as asexual, 3 percent as strictly gay or lesbian, and 4 percent identified as both transgender and strictly heterosexual.

What’s more, the percentage of millennials who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer is much higher than

**By ERIKA D. SMITH**

The Sacramento Bee

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other generations. A full 20 percent claim it. Compare that to 12 percent of 35- to 51-year-olds, 7 percent for 52- to 71-year-olds and 5 percent of those 72 and older.

But don’t clutch your pearls just yet. This doesn’t mean people are getting gayer, per se.

It just means that people are getting more comfortable with not putting themselves into society’s staid, old boxes, even as, conversely, more boxes are being created to put oneself into. Ahem, GLBTQIAA — gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual and allies.

But I digress.

These are mind-bending, gender-bending times and people are bound to be uncomfortable about it. But, like it or not, this is the future.

The Trump administration can’t stop it by refusing to measure sexual orientation and gender identity in the annual American Community Survey, a precursor to being part of the U.S. Census. And his administration can’t stop it by refusing to uphold the rights of transgender students in court, as evidenced by a federal court ruling out of Chicago last week that found LGBT employees are indeed protected from workplace discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

They are coming. As Jae put it: “You don’t have to understand it to be respectful of it.”

## Politicization of Supreme Court reaches new level

**F**orget Robert Bork. The confirmation of Neil Gorsuch after the rejection of Merrick Garland marks the new high-water mark in the overt, partisan politicization of the U.S. Supreme Court. After the Democratic Senate rejected Bork 30 years ago, President Ronald Reagan got to choose another appointee. After the Republican Senate refused to vote on Garland last year, President Barack Obama was denied the same chance.

We’ve entered a brave new world, in which the party that controls the Senate can now control court appointments. If the Democrats win the Senate while Donald Trump is president, there’s no way they’ll confirm any of his nominees, no matter how long he has left in his presidency. And Republicans, who invented the rules of this new game, won’t confirm Democratic Supreme Court nominees so long as they control the Senate.

The tale of how we got here is remarkable, and will be studied closely by historians.

It’s too simple to say that the process started with the Bork nomination, the first in which an otherwise qualified nominee’s constitutional philosophy was invoked as a reason to block confirmation. After that, George H.W. Bush had two nominees confirmed by a Democratic Senate, David Souter and Clarence Thomas. At the time, no one thought that the Senate could simply refuse to confirm any presidential nominee for purely political reasons. The idea was simply unimaginable.

Souter and Thomas were the last two nominees to be confirmed by a Senate controlled by a different party than the nominating president. But that wasn’t because the idea of partisan blockage had been born.

Rather, the explanation is mostly a matter of political coincidence. The six justices confirmed after Thomas and before Gorsuch — two each by Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama — were all filling openings that were created while the president and the Senate majority were of the same party.

And while some of those openings may have been timed by retiring justices to give the president a chance to nominate their successors, it isn’t true of all of them. Chief Justice William

Rehnquist died in office. And Justice Sandra Day O’Connor retired because her husband was ill.

So what changed? Part of the answer is the Bush v. Gore case, which dramatized how political the Supreme Court had become.

But a more significant answer must surely be the erosion of the idea that any aspect of the Senate’s agenda should be devoted to the public good rather than partisan advantage.

In past eras, it would have seemed disreputable for senators to announce that they were using their constitutional power to block nominees purely to shape the composition of the court.

Today, however, senators have realized that the public won’t make them pay a price for such obstructionism. Indeed, they might even be punished by the ideological base of their party for failing to obstruct a nominee from the other side.

That was the key insight, I think, that drove the Senate’s Republican leadership to block Garland. The Republicans probably didn’t even think that they were about to win the presidency. They may not even have intended to block Hillary Clinton’s nominees if she won in November.

Rather, their calculus was based on the estimation that a vote to confirm Garland could be used against them in future primary challenges. Every time Garland participated in a judgment with a perceived liberal outcome, it would provide an opportunity for a television ad criticizing a defecting Republican for having voted for him.

In contrast, Senate Republicans viewed blocking Garland as a low-risk proposition. If Clinton had been elected along with a Democratic Senate, Garland or another liberal would’ve been appointed over the Republicans’ dissenting votes. That would’ve spared any Senate Republicans from having to vote to confirm a Democratic nominee.

If Clinton had been elected with a Republican Senate, the Republicans would have faced the choice of trying to block a Democratic nominee for four years or more. But they would have had the option of backing down and saying the Garland block was appropriate only because of the timing of Antonin Scalia’s death in the last year of Obama’s presidency.

In reality, it all worked out better than the Republicans could

**By NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg View

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have dreamed — and worse for the Democrats. Trump plus a Republican Senate meant the voting public rewarded the Garland obstruction instead of punishing it.

The Republicans gambled by making the Supreme Court into a more salient issue in the national election than it would have been had Garland been confirmed. And in the process of winning that bet, they taught us all a transformative political lesson: The public either liked what they did, or didn’t care enough to make them pay a price for it.

That bitter lesson hasn’t been lost on Senate Democrats, who sacrificed a filibuster that could potentially have been useful to them in a future confirmation battle on the theory (presumably) that the base would punish them if they didn’t exhaust all possible tools against Gorsuch. This was, I think, a self-destructive move.

Now, if Trump should get another Supreme Court pick, there will be no Democratic constraint on his choice at all — unless the Democrats win the Senate before that happens.

The upshot is that control the Senate is now a winner-take-all proposition for Supreme Court confirmation. I fully expect that, for the foreseeable future, if the president and the Senate majority don’t come from the same party, there will be no confirmations at all.

After all, without a conception of public duty, there’s simply no reason for the Senate majority to go along with a president it doesn’t like. The Supreme Court has showed that it can function with reduced numbers.

And the public has shown that it doesn’t care.

### WAIT

From Page 10

would react to his first international crisis. He could have let his State Department deplore this with words and kept missiles at bay. He didn’t.

Now adversaries and allies will have to recalculate.

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### CONGRESS

From Page 10

law refusing to pay for the bombing of Cambodia.

That’s tough to do, of course, but it would be a lot easier if Congress had not acquiesced over the years in the buildup of warmaking authority in the executive. There’s zero chance that the House or Senate would adopt a resolution restricting Presi-

dent Trump’s freedom to act in Syria, just as there was zero chance that either chamber would adopt a resolution restricting President Obama’s freedom to act in Libya.

The result is that the commander in chief can order the U.S. military into action whenever it suits his judgment. Many people, myself included, are uneasy with that hard truth. For better or worse, however, it’s been our practice for a very long time.

Clinging to the long-dead notion that Congress must first declare war might be comforting, but it has nothing to do with reality.



# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Scattered thunderstorms in the morning. Partly cloudy skies late.

▲85° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy early followed by mostly cloudy skies and a few showers later in the day.

▲86° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Scattered showers and thunderstorms.

▲85° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Scattered thunderstorms, especially in the afternoon.

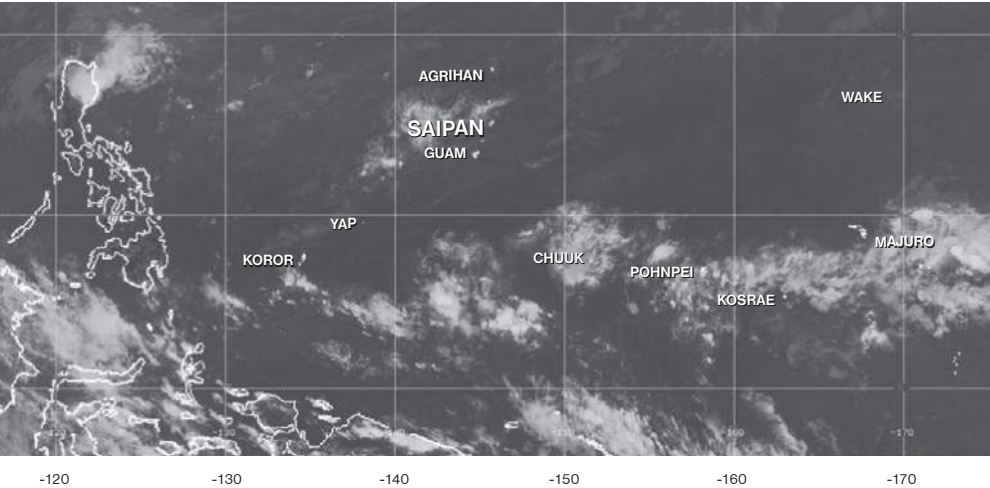
▲85° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy skies early giving way to a few showers after midnight.

▲85° ▼77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were made to inherited grids and forecast. The latest GFS model run is showing a drier pattern for the Marianas than previous runs, with a developing disturbance to the south of Chuuk moving west-northwestward toward Yap and Palau. This scenario will keep most of the convection to the south of Guam. Latest GFS time-height products still show a fairly deep layer of moisture over Guam and Rota for the middle of the week, with drier conditions over Tinian and Saipan. It appears much more likely that if scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms do approach the area, they will be limited to Guam and Rota. This situation will need to be monitored closely by the day shift to determine if scattered showers remain likely and whether the zones should be split to keep the showers south of Tinian. As of now, decided to maintain the current forecast until actual path of the disturbance can be better determined.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	87	79 °F
Palau	Rain	85	77 °F
Yap	Overcast	84	72 °F
Chuuk	Rain	84	80 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82	79 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	84	80 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84	80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	72	66 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	71	43 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	84	76 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83	69 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	58	40 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	72	52 °F
Manila	Sunny	96	79 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59	55 °F
Miami	Clear	79	71 °F
New York	Clear	74	55 °F
Osaka	Overcast	62	55 °F
Paris	Fog	61	41 °F
Pusan	Sunny	64	44 °F
Rome	Sunny	69	47 °F
Salem	Light Rain	58	42 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60	49 °F
Seoul	Sunny	71	47 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	59	45 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80	58 °F

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- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:53 AM	LOW TIDE		0.44
7:42 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.9
2:19 PM	LOW TIDE		0.25
8:18 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.85

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:01 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	-	6:41 AM	7:22 PM
Thursday	-	7:21 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	-	8:03 AM	8:59 PM
Saturday	-	8:45 AM	9:48 PM

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN				SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat		7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily		1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily					

6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily					

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	



# SSC Educational Scholarship applications available

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's goals are to promote and enable postsecondary education and to publicly acknowledge and reward the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of deserving students. It recognizes that the cost of postsecondary education is substantial. It is for this reason that the Chamber continues to award Educational Scholarships every June at its General Membership Meeting in the amount of \$12,000.

The Educational Scholarship

Fund offers a one-time monetary award in the following categories: Four (4) high school scholarships, One (1) college scholarship, and one (1) Pellegrino Vocational scholarship.

As one former scholarship recipient states, "My first year at Barnard College/Columbia University has been euphoric as well as challenging, but I wouldn't want my experience to be any other way. I wouldn't have experienced this life-changing year if it weren't for the Chamber of Commerce

scholarship program. In comparison to the expenses of New York City, perhaps what I have received was not much. However, the grant was key in helping me fill up my Swiss-cheese-like financial aid package. Financial instability is arguably the most stressful thing any college student can endure, but I didn't have to worry too much because the money I received

from the Chamber of Commerce scholarship program alleviated the trouble."

Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and will also be delivered to schools. Chamber scholarship applications are also available for download on our website: [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com). Applicants are encour-

aged to complete the application and submit them on or before the deadline of 5pm, Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at the Chamber's office in the Marianas Business Plaza 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Suite #315. Scholarships will be awarded at the monthly General Membership Meeting on June 7, 2017. For more information please call the Chamber office at (670)

234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com.

The Chamber is the largest non-profit private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interest, general health and welfare, of the Commonwealth. (SCC)

## 34 organizations confirm their participation at NMC's Career Fair

Thirty-four companies have already confirmed their participation in the Northern Marianas College's Career Fair that will be held on April 27 at the Saipan World Resort, Royal Taga Ballroom from 9am to 12pm. Only a few more slots remain for organizations who want to recruit or exhibit at the Fair.

The participating organizations include Ajisen Raman; Kanoa Resort, Century Tours; Cha Café & Bakery; Civil Service Commission-OPM; CNMI PSS; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Department of Labor-WIA; DFS Saipan Limited; Fiesta Resort and Spa – Saipan; Hyatt Regency Saipan; IHOP; Imperial Pacific International dba BSI; Island Training Solutions; J.C. Tenorio Enterprises; Inc.' Kalayaan, Inc.; Kan Pacific Saipan; Kensington Hotel; Marianas Medical Center; Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc.; NMC Business Department; NMC

Recruitment Team; Pacific Health, Inc.; Pacific Islands Club-Saipan; Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.; POI Aviation; Quality Water Laboratory; Saipan Computer Services, Inc.; SHEFA; Sorensen Media Group; and Triple J Saipan, Inc.

The Northern Marianas College's Career Fair provides government agencies, private sector companies, and non-profit organizations that are looking to fill key vacancies within their organizations the opportunity to connect with prospective employees and job applicants. Organizations can also promote their summer jobs, internships, and career opportunities to NMC students and graduates.

To participate in NMC's Career Fair, companies are asked to contact Neda DeLeon Guerrero at 237-6759 or email [neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu](mailto:neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu) or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). Exhibit space is limited. (NMC)

## San Nicolas introduces measures to address GovGuam cash flow

**GUAM**—To improve the cash flow of the Government of Guam, Sen. San Nicolas introduced Bill 72-34 and Resolution 76-34, which would help to smooth out the revenues and expenditures of the Government of Guam. Recently transmitted legislation from Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo called for more borrowing in order to smooth out cash flow for the Government of Guam which the Governor said was the cause of the slowdown in tax refund payments this year.

Bill 72-34 would authorize executive branch agencies to seek monthly amortization of payments of municipal leases. Certain municipal leases, like Tiyan High School, are paid in a lump sum at the beginning of the fiscal year. The monthly amortization of these payments would help to improve

the cash flow of the Government of Guam by breaking the payments into smaller monthly amounts which are more manageable.

Resolution 76-34 seeks to encourage Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordalloto negotiate a quarterly disbursement of Section 30 funds with federal authorities, beginning in the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, as opposed to a lump sum in September. This would make the money available year round, as opposed to once a year.

"Part of improving cash flow is making efforts to smooth out the money we have going in and the money we have going out," said Senator San Nicolas. "These measures represent tangible improvements to our cash flow and I look forward to bipartisan support." (PR)



### MMAC TITLE SPONSORS

2017 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members with one of this year's Title Sponsors, Saipan Mayor David Apatang and staff. The 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer event will be held on May 5 starting 6pm at Hopwood Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



2017 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members with one of this year's Title Sponsors, Traders Insurance Company and staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Coast Guard conducts long-range medevac of San Antonio man from remote Pacific

**HONOLULU**—A 74-year-old man arrived in stable condition to Honolulu, Tuesday, after being medically evacuated 1,061 miles from Palmyra Atoll by the Coast Guard.

James Hickman of San Antonio was safely transported aboard an HC-130 Hercules fixed wing airplane from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point on a 3 hour flight to the air station where local emergency services personnel were waiting to transfer him to Queen's Medical Center.

"With the largest area of responsibility in the Coast Guard, we rely heavily on our air station crews when con-

ducting medical evacuations or search and rescue missions throughout the Pacific," said Lt. Brownie Kuk, a command duty officer at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu. "Distance and time are constantly working against us, so it's imperative to get people to care as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Watchstanders at JRCC Honolulu received a request Sunday from personnel at the Mayo Clinic for assistance Hickman who was reportedly suffering symptoms of heart complications aboard the 63-foot pleasure craft, Tesla.

JRCC contacted the duty

flight surgeon and the patient's primary care provider who recommended a medevac from Palmyra via Coast Guard aircraft. It was also recommended for a health services technician to accompany the crew to provide in-flight care.

The Tesla was initially located approximately 400 miles north of Palmyra Atoll when Hickman began to experience complications. The master of the vessel transited to Palmyra to await the Coast Guard crew.

JRCC Honolulu is located at the Coast Guard 14th District and has responsibility for search and rescue across 12.2 million square miles of the Pacific

Ocean to include the main Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Saipan and American Samoa extending out in all directions.

The Coast Guard is the world's premier maritime search and rescue agency ready to answer the nation's call for help, even in the vast regions of the Pacific Ocean.

Each day the Coast Guard conducts 45 search and rescue cases and saves 10 lives. Today's rescue, over 1,000 miles from Hawaii, demonstrates the importance of the services commitment to recapitalize our aircraft, vessels and boats to be ready to protect the American public. (USCG)



# Business

## New report gives US airlines better grades across the board

DALLAS (AP)—The airlines are getting better at sticking to their schedules and are losing fewer bags. Their customers seem to be complaining less often.

Those are the findings of an annual report on airline quality being released Monday by researchers at Wichita State University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The researchers use information compiled by the U.S. Department of Transportation to rate the airlines for on-time performance, baggage handling, bumping passengers off oversold flights, and complaints filed with the government.

They planned to release their list of the best airlines later Monday.

The report's general observations:

■ **ON TIME PERFORMANCE:** The percentage of flights that arrived on time or close enough rose to 81.4 percent in 2016 from 79.9 percent in 2015. Of 12 leading U.S. carriers, only American, JetBlue and Virgin America got worse.

■ **LOST BAGS:** The rate of bags being lost, stolen or delayed fell 17 percent.

■ **BUMPING PASSENGERS:** Your chances of getting bumped by the airline dropped 18 percent, which doesn't include people who voluntarily gave up their seat for money or a travel voucher.



This Thursday, March 16, 2017, photo shows the interior of a JetBlue airliner at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

bry-Riddle researchers have been doing their report for more than 25 years, making it useful for comparing airlines. But some observers of the airline industry dismiss their number-crunching approach, and there are many other surveys that purport to rank the airlines.

The Transportation Department counts a flight as being on time even if it arrives up to 14 minutes late. "Airlines are happy with that (grace period) because it makes them look better and misleads the passenger," said aviation consultant Michael Baiada. He said airlines can do better, and besides, travelers pay to be on time—not 14 minutes late.

■ **FEWER COMPLAINTS:** The rate of complaints filed with the government dropped about one-fifth, with complaints rising only for Hawaiian and Virgin America.

The official complaint rates don't include the larger number of complaints that passengers file directly with the airline. The airlines are not required to report those figures.

Clearly, however, airlines still have a perception problem. It's not hard to find pas-

sengers who complain about a miserable flight, a missed connection, or shabby treatment by airline employees. Comments like that abound on Twitter.

"People don't look at the numbers," said Dean Headley, a marketing professor at Wichita State and co-author of Monday's report. "They just know what happened to them, or they hear what happened to other people."

The Wichita State and Em-

## Former Marine a great worker but refuses all help

**Q: I have a talented new employee with one serious problem. "Stan" is a former Marine who has extremely high standards and an outstanding work ethic. However, he absolutely refuses to ask for help. He says his military training makes asking for assistance seem like weakness.**

**My team routinely deals with complex technical issues, and no one person has all the necessary knowledge. Collaboration is critical to our success, but Stan always tries to figure things out on his own. His lack of experience creates issues that others have to fix.**

**Whenever I ask Stan if he needs help, he always says no. I've tried using sports analogies, but that hasn't worked. How should I handle this?**

**A:** New hires who were successful in another field frequently resent being back in a learning curve. To help Stan see the benefit of consulting with co-workers, explain how gaining this knowledge will actually accelerate his autonomy.

At the same time, you must clearly explain that collaboration will always be a necessary and non-negotiable aspect of this job. Since sports comparisons haven't helped, try relating to Stan's military experience. Complex military operations require extensive teamwork, and lone rangers are often dangerous. Because people sometimes

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



hesitate to seek help from the boss, consider asking an experienced and respected colleague to serve as Stan's mentor. This should not only improve his technical abilities, but also provide him with a role model for collaborative working relationships.

But if all coaching fails and Stan stubbornly insists on going it alone, then you'll have to decide whether his independent nature fits with your company's collaborative culture. Just be sure to make that decision before the end of his probationary period.

**Q: Our CEO recently told the management team that if we don't join our industry's trade association, we are being "professionally irresponsible." He has been active in this group for many years. Because we have to pay our own dues, we have previously viewed membership as a personal choice. If our boss insists on it, shouldn't the company subsidize the cost?**

**A:** That would certainly be a reasonable expectation, so perhaps you should find out whether your CEO is indeed

reasonable. Get with your team members and develop a plan for presenting this request. Instead of complaining about payment, be sure to emphasize all the ways that membership can help the company.

If the request fails, then you must each assess the career benefits of joining this organization. For anyone staying with the company, pleasing the CEO would be a plus. For anyone remaining in the industry, valuable connections could be made. But everyone else might just want to keep their money.

**Q: I have a comment on the recent question about the office hoarder. At my university, we called in the local fire inspector to address the extreme hoarding of several professors. Their offices were dangerous fire traps and, in one case, hosted a family of mice. The threat of regular inspections and fines quickly solved the problem.**

**A:** Thanks for sharing your story. When mice start nesting in the clutter, then it's definitely time for a clean-up!

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Delta says 150 more flights canceled as storm effects linger

NEW YORK (AP)—Delta Air Lines said it canceled another 150 flights on Sunday as it tries to get back on schedule after severe thunderstorms that disrupted flights into and out of its hub in Atlanta. Delta said Sunday afternoon that its operations are stabilizing, but there aren't enough crews available to staff its flights, in part because of federal regulations on rest for crews. Delta advised travelers to check its website and mobile app because more flights may be canceled. It's offering waivers to help people rebook their flights without charge. The airline canceled more than 3,000 flights this week as powerful thunderstorms moved across Georgia and other states in the Southeast. It canceled another 275 flights Saturday morning.

#### Chinese insurance regulator under graft investigation

BEIJING (AP)—China's top anti-corruption body is investigating the country's chief insurance regulator, adding to a widening anti-graft crackdown following complaints of misconduct by insurers. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a one-sentence statement that Xiang Junbo, chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, was suspected of unspecified "severe discipline violations," an official term for corruption. Thousands of officials and managers at

state companies have been snared in an anti-corruption drive launched by President Xi Jinping after he took power in 2013. The insurance industry has been hit by complaints insurers are making dangerously risky investments in stocks and real estate. One life insurer was prohibited from trading stocks in December and the chairman of another was barred from the industry in February.

#### Hacker group releases password to alleged NSA files

NEW YORK (AP)—A secretive group that published a trove of hacking tools allegedly used by U.S. spies has released a password that it says can unlock related files. In a Medium post, the "Shadow Brokers" group revealed a password to files associated with the leaked toolkit, purportedly from the U.S. National Security Agency. Some security experts tweeted that the password works, but that couldn't be independently verified. An October leak by the group included information that experts said might identify computers used to obscure U.S. electronic eavesdropping. The group's post also included a discursive rant against President Donald Trump, including criticism of the recent U.S. airstrike on a Syrian air base, Trump's attacks on some congressional Republicans and his decision to remove adviser Stephen Bannon from the National Security Council.



# Nation

## Trump advisers: US seeks to fight IS and oust Syria's Assad

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump's national security adviser on Sunday left open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria following last week's missile strike but indicated that the United States was not seeking to act unilaterally to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In his first televised interview, H.R. McMaster pointed to dual U.S. goals of defeating the Islamic State group and removing Assad. But he suggested that Trump was seeking a global political response for regime change from U.S. allies as well as Russia, which he said needed to re-evaluate its support of Syria.

"It's very difficult to understand how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime," McMaster said. "Now, we are not saying that we are the ones who are going to effect that change. What we are saying is, other countries have to ask themselves some hard questions. Russia should ask themselves ... Why are we supporting this murderous regime that is committing mass murder of its own population?"

After last Tuesday's chemical attack in Syria, Trump said his attitude toward Assad "has changed very much" and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said "steps are underway" to organize a coalition to remove him from power.

But as lawmakers called on Trump to consult with Congress on any future military strikes and a longer-term strategy on Syria, Trump administration officials sent mixed signals on the scope of U.S. involvement. While Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, described regime change in Syria as a U.S. priority and inevitable, Tillerson suggested that last week's American airstrikes in retaliation for the chemical attack hadn't really changed U.S. priorities toward ousting Assad.

Pressed to clarify, McMaster said the goals of fighting IS and ousting Syria's president were somewhat "simultaneous" and that the objective of the missile strike was to send a "strong political message to Assad." He did not rule out additional strikes if Assad continued to engage in atrocities against rebel forces with either chemical or conventional weapons.

## Police say gunman had just been fired from fitness center

By **KELLI KENNEDY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The man who shot and killed two managers at a Florida gym before turning the gun on himself had just been fired from the fitness center for workplace violence, police said Sunday.

The Miami-Dade Police Department said in a statement Sunday that 33-year-old Abeku Wilson of Miami was let go Saturday as a fitness trainer at the Equinox gym in Coral Gables "due to workplace violence and was escorted off the premises."

Authorities didn't elaborate on what that violence involved.

Shortly after his dismissal, Wilson returned to the gym with a handgun and fired multiple shots at both managers before fatally shooting himself. Police said the managers were deliberately targeted and that the shooting wasn't random.

Equinox issued an email statement Sunday that it was "deeply saddened" by the deaths of the two employees, 35-year-old Janine Ackerman of Miami and 42-year-old Marios Hortis of Miami

Beach. Ackerman was the gym's general manager and Hortis the fitness manager.

"Our love, prayers and condolences are with both families during this terrible time. The collective Equinox community will always keep Janine and Marios in our hearts," the statement said.

Marc Sarnoff, who previously trained with Wilson for two years, saw him at the gym before Saturday's shooting and noticed something was wrong.

Wilson typically was "very buttoned up, very proper, very appropriate," Sarnoff said in a phone interview. But on Saturday, Wilson physically bumped into Sarnoff and his current trainer. The usually adept Wilson seemed noticeably off-kilter.

"He wasn't clean-shaven ... and he seemed to be slurring his words," said Sarnoff. "He said, 'I'm sorry I'm just off balance this morning'."

An Instagram account in his name is filled with shirtless, muscly photos talking about body building competitions that he was preparing for. In December, a posting said he had gotten a blue belt in martial arts.



President Donald Trump gives a thumbs-up as he walks across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, April 9, 2017.

"We are prepared to do more," he said. "The president will make whatever decision he thinks is in the best interest of the American people."

Reluctant to put significant troops on the ground in Syria, the U.S. for years has struggled to prevent Assad from strengthening his hold on power.

U.S.-backed rebels groups have long pleaded for more U.S. intervention and complained that Washington has only fought the Islamic State

group. So Trump's decision to launch the strikes—which President Barack Obama declined to do after a 2013 chemical attack—has raised optimism among rebels that Trump will more directly confront Assad.

Several lawmakers said Sunday that decision shouldn't entirely be up to Trump.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the no. 2 Republican in the Senate, praised Trump's initial missile strike for sending a message to Assad, Russia, Iran

and North Korea that "there's a new administration in charge." But he said Trump now needed to work with Congress to set a future course.

"Congress needs to work with the president to try and deal with this long-term strategy, lack of strategy, really, in Syria," he said. "We haven't had one for six years during the Obama administration, and 400,000 civilians have died and millions of people have been displaced internally and externally in Europe and

elsewhere."

Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, agreed. "What we saw was a reaction to the use of chemical weapons, something I think many of us supported," he said. "But what we did not see is a coherent policy on how we're going to deal with the civil war and also deal with ISIS."

Still, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he believed that Trump didn't need to consult with Congress.

"I think the president has authorization to use force," he said. "Assad signed the chemical weapons treaty ban. There's an agreement with him not to use chemical weapons."

Their comments came as Tillerson was making the Trump administration's first official trip this week to Russia, a staunch Assad ally. In interviews broadcast Sunday, Tillerson said defeating the Islamic State group remains the top focus. Once that threat "has been reduced or eliminated, I think we can turn our attention directly to stabilizing the situation in Syria," he said.

"We're hopeful that we can prevent a continuation of the civil war and that we can bring the parties to the table to begin the process of political discussions" between the Assad government and various rebel groups.

## Hawaii LGBT couples seek equal access to fertility treatment

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Sean Smith and his husband paid more than \$20,000 for a fertility procedure when they decided to have a child using a surrogate mother. They did not know at the time that if they were a heterosexual couple, they might have saved that money.

Now, Smith and other members of Hawaii's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community are lobbying for equal access to the financial help married, heterosexual couples enjoy under state law.

They are pushing legislation that would require insurance companies to cover in vitro fertilization for more couples, including making Hawaii the first state to require the coverage for surrogates, which would help male same-sex couples who must use a surrogate.

"Now that marriage equality is the law of the land and is accepted, now let's turn to family building, and let's figure out how we fix all these inequities that exist," said Barbara Collura, president and

CEO of Resolve, a national organization that advocates for access to fertility treatments.

Hawaii is one of eight states that require insurance companies to cover in vitro fertilization, a costly procedure where a doctor retrieves eggs from a woman, combines them with sperm from a man and then implants an embryo into a woman's uterus.

But Hawaii's mandate applies only to married heterosexual couples because it covers the medical intervention only if a woman uses sperm from her spouse, leaving the LGBT community and single women behind.

"At the end of the visit, I would be going into the office and pulling out my credit card, and other people are probably just walking out and insurance is picking up the tab," Smith said. "We had to borrow money, refinance a second mortgage, and I'm sure there are people who don't even explore the option because the expenses are too great."

The measure pending in the Hawaii Legislature removes

requirements that the egg and sperm come from a married couple and includes surrogates among the people to be covered.

No other state has included surrogates in their laws, Collura said.

"It is definitely groundbreaking," Collura said. "And it's an often-overlooked way that people choose to build their family, and it should not be left out. It's great to see that Hawaii is taking the lead."

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii opposed the measure, saying the medical provider and insurer does not perform in vitro fertilization with donor eggs or surrogates because of complex legal issues and medical risks. The company asked lawmakers to remove egg donors and surrogates from the bill, saying requiring coverage of additional procedures would raise costs for the company and its customers.

A similar measure in Hawaii failed in previous legislative sessions. But aside from Kaiser, the bill has seen little opposition this year.

A broad coalition including the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and the Democratic Party of Hawaii are working with LGBT groups to push for change. The proposal passed the state Senate and is up for a vote in the House this week.

Maryland had a law that also excluded same-sex couples until about a year ago, when the Legislature changed the provision so it no longer required using a husband's sperm. That helped lesbian couples, but gay men were still left out because the law didn't cover surrogates, Collura said.

Most state mandates limit insurance reimbursement to a certain number of in vitro fertilization trials or allow coverage only after years of infertility. Some states also allow religious or small employers to get out of the requirement.

"We need to change these laws," Collura said. "We need to update them and make them so that they are no longer discriminatory."



## Asia

## Dalai Lama says it's for people to decide fate of his office

**GAUHATI, India (AP)**—The exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader said Saturday that it's up to his followers to decide whether the office of the Dalai Lama exists in the future.

During a visit to the north-east Indian town of Tawang—the second-highest seat of Tibetan Buddhism—the Dalai Lama denied that he had any knowledge of where his successor would be born. Asked if the next Dalai Lama could be a woman, he said, “That might also happen.”

The question of who will replace the 81-year-old spiritual leader has gained significance in recent years, with Beijing insisting that the next Dalai Lama be born in China.

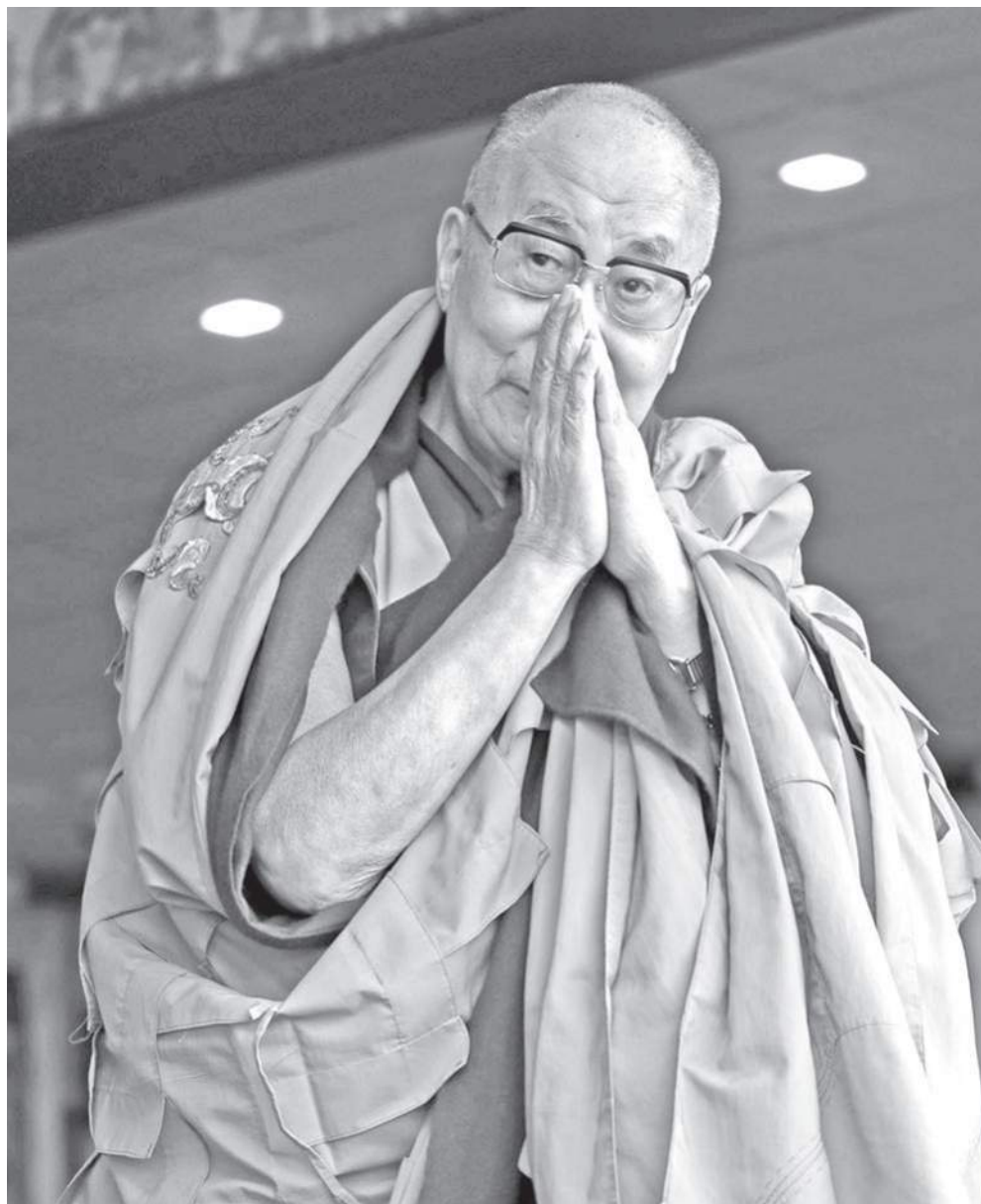
On Saturday, the Tibetan leader said the people should decide on the question of the next Dalai Lama.

“They will decide whether the tradition continues or not,” he told reporters in Tawang, located in India's remote northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Dalai Lama is on a weeklong visit to Arunachal Pradesh despite objections by China, which considers the state a disputed region.

On China's claim on the next Dalai Lama, he said, “Let China first come clear on its theory on rebirth.”

The Dalai Lama said that he has nothing to do with



“politics,” and that it was the Tibetan self-declared government-in-exile that handled all political matters, including the

Tibetan cause.

“I retired from politics in 2011 and all political matters are handled by our gov-

ernment-in-exile,” he said. “However, I am committed to promote and preserve Tibetan culture and ecology.”

<sup>AP</sup> Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama greets followers as he arrives to deliver teachings in Tawang, in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, Saturday April 8, 2017.

The Dalai Lama and his followers have been living in exile in the Himalayan town of Dharamsala in northern India since they fled Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

China doesn't recognize the Tibetan government-in-exile, and hasn't held any dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama since 2010.

China says Tibet has historically been part of its territory since the mid-13th century, and the Communist Party has governed the Himalayan region since 1951. But many Tibetans say that they were effectively independent for most of their history, and that the Chinese government wants to exploit their resource-rich region while crushing their cultural identity.

In Tawang, thousands of people thronged both sides of the road Saturday and broke into loud cheers and waved prayer flags as the Dalai Lama's motorcade entered a stadium where he addressed his followers.

Tawang was spruced up for the Dalai Lama's visit—his first since 2009. Streets were swept, houses freshly painted and welcome arches and banners erected across the main streets.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has drawn sharp protests from China. On Wednesday, China accused India of “using” the Dalai Lama to undermine Beijing's interests and summoned the Indian ambassador in Beijing to formally lodge a protest.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying warned India that China “will firmly take necessary measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests.”

India responded by saying China was creating an “artificial controversy.”

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as “Southern Tibet.” India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

The Dalai Lama has often said that he was not seeking independence for Tibet, but trying to secure greater autonomy for the Tibetan people within China.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### 5 killed in anti-India protests on Kashmir by-election day

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)**—Officials in India's portion of Kashmir say five people were killed when security forces opened fire on crowds of people who attacked polling stations where voting for a by-election was taking place. Chief electoral officer Shantmanu said protesters tried to snatch or damage electronic voting machines in at least a dozen places in the districts of Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal on Sunday. The deaths occurred when security forces fired after clashes broke out with protesters who wanted to stop the election for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency. The seat had fallen vacant after a lawmaker resigned to protest the killing of civilians during unrest last year. Police said many protesters were injured in the violence. Anti-India separatists who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir had called for a boycott of

the by-election.

### Indonesia says 6 slain militants were planning police attack

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—Six suspected Islamic militants killed in a standoff with police were planning to attack police officers in Indonesia's East Java province to seek revenge for the arrest of a radical leader, authorities said Sunday. The men were cornered in a village in Tuban district on Saturday after attempting to shoot a traffic police officer who was approaching them when he saw their car stopped at the roadside, said national police spokesman Rikwanto. The six refused appeals to surrender during a standoff that lasted several hours and were fatally shot by police, said Rikwanto, who goes by a single name. On Friday, counterterrorism police arrested three suspected militants who were allegedly planning to attack a police station in East Java. Among those arrested was Zainal Anshori, a

senior figure of Jemaah Anshurut Daulah, an umbrella group of Indonesian extremists that claims allegiance to the Islamic State group.

### India news presenter learns of husband's death on live TV

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—People across India are hailing the composure of a television news presenter who learned of her husband's death as she delivered a breaking news report on live TV. Supreet Kaur was reading the morning news bulletin for India's IBC24 channel in Chhattisgarh state Saturday when a reporter called in a story about a fatal road crash. Although the reporter didn't name the three victims, Kaur realized her husband was among the dead from the details of the story. Ravikant Mittal, IBC24's editor-in-chief, said Sunday, “For a moment her voice trembled, but she collected herself and carried on reading the news till the bulletin got over 10 minutes later.” “Amazing grace” was

one of the many comments on Twitter as Kaur's story went viral on social media.

### Poachers kill rare one-horned rhino in southern Nepal forest

**KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—Authorities are searching for poachers who killed a rare one-horned rhinoceros over the weekend in the forests of southern Nepal and cut off the horn. Forest officer Nurendra Ryal said it was the first killing of a rhino in the Chitwan National Forest in nearly three years. Soldiers and forest rangers were scouring the forests and nearby areas for the people who shot the rhino. The dead rhino was discovered on Saturday. The forest located about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, and bordering India is protected by the government and guarded by armed soldiers. Nepal has been working to increase the number of one-horned rhinos in Chitwan National Forest.

## Quakes crack buildings, panic tourists in Philippine town

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Back-to-back earthquakes cracked small buildings and blocked roads with minor landslides Saturday in a Philippine resort province south of Manila where jittery tourists left and patients were evacuated from a hospital amid aftershocks.

Officials said an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 struck near Mabini town in Batangas province at midafternoon, followed shortly by a magnitude 6 quake, prompting many people to rush out of homes and beach resorts. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The quakes were felt in outlying regions, including in Manila, the capital, where people rushed out of some buildings and hotels in panic as the ground shook and chandeliers swayed.

“Our tourists left out of fear they may be affected by the earthquakes,” Mayor Noel Luistro of Mabini, which is popular for diving and snorkeling, told DZMM radio network. “I need to declare a state

of calamity.”

Hundreds of villagers fled from their homes to higher ground, fearing a tsunami, although government seismologists did not declare any such threat.

A stone church was damaged, a house collapsed and minor landslides partially blocked some roads elsewhere in Batangas, where inter-island ferries were briefly stopped from venturing to sea at the start of the summer travel season as coast guard officials made sure there was no threat of a tsunami.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the first quake struck at a depth of 27 kilometers (17 miles), while the second was 24 kilometers (15 miles) deep. The U.S. Geological Survey said both were about 42 kilometers (26 miles) deep.

The Philippines sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” where earthquakes and volcanoes are common. A magnitude 7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people on the northern island of Luzon in 1990.



# World

## Suicide bombers kill 44 at Palm Sunday services in Egypt

**TANTA, Egypt (AP)**—Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 44 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage at the government that led the president to call for a three-month state of emergency.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the violence, adding to fears that extremists are shifting their focus to civilians, especially Egypt's Christian minority.

The attacks in the northern cities of Tanta and Alexandria that also left 126 people wounded came at the start of Holy Week leading up to Easter, and just weeks before Pope Francis is due to visit.

Pope Tawadros II, the leader of the Coptic church who will meet with Francis on April 28-29, was in the Alexandria cathedral at the time of the bombing but was unhurt, the Interior Ministry said.

It was the single deadliest day for Christians in decades



**AP**  
Blood stains pews inside the St. George Church after a suicide bombing, in the Nile Delta town of Tanta, Egypt, Sunday, April 9, 2017.

people and wounding 78, officials said, overturning pews, shattering windows and staining the whitewashed walls with blood.

Video from inside the church broadcast by CBC TV showed people gathered around what appeared to be lifeless, bloody bodies covered with papers. Several doors had been blown off. Women wailed outside.

"After the explosion, everything became dark from the smoke," said Edmond Edward, attending Mass with his brother, Emil, who suffered head wounds and leaned on him for support at a nearby hospital.

"There was a clear lapse in security, which must be tightened from now on to save lives," he told The Associated Press. The blast appeared to be centered near the altar, he said.

Susan Mikhail, whose apartment balcony across the street has a clear view of the church and its front yard, said the explosion violently shook her building.

"Deacons were the first to run out of the church. Many of them had blood on their white robes," she told the AP. The more seriously wounded then were carried out by other survivors and taken to hospitals in private cars, she said.

## Attacks exemplify allure of extremism in ex-Soviet republics

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Two extremist attacks in Europe during the past week have tendrils to former Soviet Central Asian republics, drawing new attention to the poverty and repressive governments that observers suggest make the region's people ripe for Islamic extremist recruiting.

The man who allegedly drove a truck into a crowd in downtown Stockholm, killing four, is an Uzbekistan native said to have Islamist sympathies. The Friday attack came four days after 13 people died in Russia when a suicide bomber identified as an ethnic Uzbek from Kyrgyzstan blew himself up on a St. Petersburg subway train.

How many Central Asians are active Islamist militants or sympathizers is impossible to assess, but they have been prominent in some of the past year's most gruesome extremist attacks.

An Uzbek is the suspect in the New Year's Eve shooting at an Istanbul nightclub that killed 39; an Uzbek and a Kyrgyz are believed to be two of the three suicide attackers who killed 45 at Istanbul's airport in June.

The third airport attacker was identified as being from Russia, where Islamic violence has broken out for de-

cadec—in the Chechnya separatist war, as part of a persistent insurgency in neighboring Dagestan, during the 2004 Beslan school seizure in which 334 hostages died, and underpinning an array of attacks in Moscow.

On Sunday, Norwegian authorities said a 17-year-old Russian with Islamist sympathies had been arrested on suspicion of placing a bomb at a subway station in Oslo.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union a quarter-century ago, many of the new countries that emerged from its dust have been troubled by Islamic insurgencies. Just a few months after the USSR fell apart, rebels in Tajikistan, many of whom were Islamists of the strict Wahhabi sect, began what turned into a five-year civil war that killed 50,000 or more.

In 1998, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan took shape, aiming to replace a dictatorial government with an Islamic caliphate. The IMU became a feared ally of al-Qaeda; many of its adherents reportedly have switched their allegiance to the Islamic State group in recent years.

Authorities claimed the 2005 uprising in the Uzbek city of Andijan, in which police massacred hundreds, was inspired by the IMU.

and the worst since a bombing at a Cairo church in December killed 30 people.

Late Sunday night, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi called for a three-month state of emergency. According to Egypt's constitution, parliament must vote in favor of such a declaration—a virtual certainty since it is packed with supporters of the president. It cannot exceed six months without a referendum

to extend it.

The army chief-turned-president also dispatched elite troops across the country to protect key installations and accused unidentified countries of fueling instability, saying that "Egyptians have foiled plots and efforts by countries and fascist, terrorist organizations that tried to control Egypt."

The attacks highlighted the difficulties facing el-Sis-

si's government in protecting Christians, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population.

"Where is the government?" screamed an angry Maged Saleh, who rushed to the church in the Nile Delta city of Tanta where his mother escaped the carnage. "There is no government!"

The first bomb exploded inside St. George's Church in Tanta, killing at least 27

## Russia and Iran affirm commitment to Syrian government

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Russia and Iran renewed their support for the Syrian government in a flurry of calls on Sunday, saying last week's U.S. missile strike violated Syrian sovereignty but failed to boost the morale of "terror groups" in Syria.

In a phone call with Syrian President Bashar Assad, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the strike on Friday a "blatant violation" of Syrian sovereignty, Syrian state media reported. Assad accused the U.S. of trying to boost the morale of "terror groups" in Syria. The government refers to all those fighting against it as terrorists.

A statement carried on the military media arm of Hezbollah condemned the American strike in much stronger language, saying it had "crossed red lines" and vowing to "reply with force" to any future aggression "in a variety of ways."

The Lebanese militant group has invested thousands of fighters in the defense of



Assad's government. The statement was made in the name of a previously unheard of "shared operations room" between Russia, Iran and allied forces. There was no comment from Russia or Iran about the statement.

The Kremlin said in a statement Rouhani also spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone.

"Both sides noted the inadmissibility of aggressive U.S. actions against a sovereign state in violation of international law," the statement said. "Vladimir Putin and Hassan Rouhani spoke in favor of an objective, unbiased investigation of all the circumstances of the chemical weapons incident on April 4 in the Syrian province of Idlib."

Rouhani said the U.S. strike would not affect Iran's Syria policy, while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran would not withdraw in the face of similar aggressions.

"What the Americans did is a strategic mistake and offense. They are repeating offense of their predecessors," Khamenei was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

Iran has provided crucial military and economic assistance to Assad throughout Syria's six-year civil war. It has organized several Shiite militias from around the Middle East to fight in sup-

port of Assad's government and has sent troops and officers from its own Revolutionary Guards.

The U.S. says the strike was in response to a nerve gas attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun last week, which has been widely blamed on government forces. The Syrian government has denied using chemical weapons.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson denied in an interview on CBS's Face the Nation that the strikes signaled an overhaul of American policy, saying its priority remained to defeat Islamic State militants in the Middle East. The strike was the first time American forces targeted a Syrian government installation in the course of the war. U.S. Treasury officials say they are preparing sanctions in response to the chemical weapons attack, though the Syrian government is already buried under U.S. and E.U. sanctions.



## Focus

By GERRY SHIH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Unfettered online hate speech fuels Islamophobia in China

**HEFEI, China** (AP)—The flood of angry anti-Muslim rhetoric on social media was the first sign of how fiercely the suburban middle-class homeowners in this central China city opposed a planned mosque in their neighborhood. It quickly escalated into something more sinister.

Soon a pig's head was buried in the ground at the future Nangang mosque, the culmination of a rally in which dozens of residents hoisted banners and circled the planned building site. Then the mosque's imam received a text message carrying a death threat: "In case someone in your family dies, I have a coffin for you—and more than one, if necessary."

"How did things get stirred up to this point?" the imam, Tao Yingsheng, said in a recent interview. "Who had even heard of the Nangang mosque before?"

On the dusty plains of the Chinese heartland, a bitter fight over a mosque exemplifies how a surge in anti-Muslim sentiment online is spreading into communities across China, exacerbating simmering ethnic and religious tensions that have in the past erupted in bloodshed. It's also posing a dilemma for the ruling Communist Party, which has allowed Islamophobia to fester online for years as part of its campaign to justify security crackdowns in its restive region of Xinjiang.

"It's let the genie out of the bottle," said James Leibold, a professor at La Trobe University in Australia who has tracked the growth of anti-Muslim hate speech on China's internet.

Interviews with residents and an examination of social media show how a few disparate online complaints by local homeowners evolved into a concerted campaign to spread hate. Key to it was an unexpected yet influential backer: a Chinese propaganda official, 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) away in Xinjiang, whose inflammatory social media posts helped draw people into the streets on New Year's Day, resulting in a police crackdown.

A stone inscription outside its gate shows the original Nangang mosque was established in the 1780s by members of the Hui minority, the descendants of Silk Road traders who settled across China centuries ago. In its present form, the mosque has served the area's 4,500 Hui for decades, its domed silhouette partially hidden



In this photo taken Friday, March 17, 2017, workers labor at a newly built condominium complex where a controversial mosque is planned in Hefei in central China's Anhui province.

by overgrown shrubs in the countryside beyond Hefei's last paved boulevards.

Over the past 10 years urbanization has come to Hefei, with sprawling development reconfiguring the landscape and its demographic flavor, and Hui leaders had been pushing for years to relocate their mosque to a more convenient urban location.

City planners in November finally selected a site adjacent to the newly built Hangkong New City condominiums, with its \$200,000 two-bedroom units, faux-Mediterranean stylings and a Volvo dealership across the street. The project's homeowners overwhelmingly members of China's ethnic Han majority began complaining on China's popular microblog, Weibo.

Some complained the mosque would occupy space promised for a park. Others warned that safety in the area would be compromised.

Others were more blunt: Han residents were uncomfortable that a center for Hui community life would be less than 100 meters (300 feet) from their building, a homeowner who later identified himself in messages to the AP by his surname, Cheng, wrote in a petition posted in December.

"And the less said about

what happens on Eid al-Adha, the better," Cheng wrote, referring to the Islamic holiday in which animals are slaughtered for a sacrificial feast. "It's absolutely shocking."

The story soon caught the attention of Cui Zijian, a boyish-looking propaganda official in Xinjiang who writes about the threat of religious extremism on his Weibo account with nearly 30,000 followers.

On Dec. 16, Cui suggested homeowners lobby local officials to block the construction, adding: "If that doesn't work, then how about pig head, pig blood."

Cui followed that a few hours later with another post repeating the four Chinese characters for pig blood and pig head over and over, attracting hundreds of reposts. While Cui was criticized by some on Weibo, a larger number—including at least one other government propaganda official—took his post as their cue to hurl abuse at the Hui.

The mosque dispute was just the latest flashpoint for an increasingly active anti-Muslim social media movement in China.

A video of a Hui girl reciting the Quran in Arabic sparked outrage last May over so-called terrorist infiltration of Chinese schools,

prompting officials to announce a "strict ban" on religion on campuses. Online activists derailed a Hui official's effort to regulate the halal food industry, arguing that religion was creeping into the officially atheistic Chinese state.

Han Chinese, who make up 95 percent of the population, have long grumbled about the dozens of China's officially recognized minority groups receiving advantages on the hyper-competitive college entrance exams or exemptions from family-size limits, but online abuse has increasingly targeted Muslims.

The rise in Islamophobia comes as Chinese have been buffeted by news of militant attacks in Europe, while at home, violence in Xinjiang and elsewhere has been blamed on Muslim separatists. Beijing has responded to the bloody, years-long insurgency from Muslim Uighur minorities in Xinjiang with further restrictions on Islamic expression, a move rights groups warn could potentially radicalize moderate Muslims. Such policies have also drawn vows of retaliation from the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

Ethnic hostility can only deepen, scholars say, when the government stops discussion of the plight of Muslims or ethnic policies while allow-

ing anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate speech to go unchecked. In 2014, Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti, who had founded a website to host debates about ethnic tensions in Xinjiang, was sentenced to life in prison on separatism charges.

Government censors go after descriptions of abuses against Muslims, but "it doesn't take long whatsoever to find incredibly Islamophobic things that seem to be not censored at all," said William Nee, China researcher at Amnesty International, which has appealed for Tohti's release.

Political observers say the recent rise of a faction within the Communist Party advocating for a hard-line approach on religious affairs has coincided with the rise of government-linked commentators who openly warn about the danger of Islam.

"Interest groups have actively promoted Islamophobia in interior regions in order to create a nationwide environment that justifies Xinjiang's anti-terrorism campaign," said Ma Haiyun, a history professor specializing in China's Muslims at Frostburg State University in Maryland. "There's an Islamophobic movement that aims at creating chaos and even conflicts at the local level."

After briefly moderating his

remarks about the Nangang mosque, the propaganda official, Cui, renewed his criticism in February with an essay arguing that his professional and patriotic duty was to resist extremism. His online speech about Muslims was part of the job, he said.

"For that, we're labeled Muslim-smearers," wrote Cui, who did not respond to repeated requests for comment. "But it is those who instigate a fear of Islam, precisely the terrorists and the extremists, who are the ones smearing Muslims."

Reached in March, an official at the propaganda department where he worked refused to comment on Cui's involvement in the controversy. But Cui now appears to be even better positioned to influence discourse: The official said Cui was transferred in February to work in the cyberspace administration, the agency in charge of censoring online speech.

Tao, the 50-year old imam, recalled the day in December when he heard his mosque was suddenly the subject of thousands of posts and hundreds of comments on Weibo, a service he barely used. He soon found himself soothing local Hui who approached him, shaken by what they were seeing online.

"They said people were planning to hang a pig's head outside our mosque. I said, 'Then we'll remove it.' They said people will bury a pig's head in the ground. I said 'Why can't we just dig it up?'" Tao said.

After protesters followed through with the threat at the New Year's Day demonstration, police detained two protest leaders for two weeks and summoned others for questioning, according to residents. Since then Han indignation has given way to quiet seething.

"People have been scared into silence," said Cheng, the Han tea seller.

During a recent visit to Hangkong New City, homeowners repeated the government's mantra that ethnic unity was important, but complained that officials sacrificed their interests to appease a minority.

"If 99 percent of our compound is Han, it doesn't seem appropriate that they put a mosque next door," said a middle-aged woman who said her surname was Han.

Ma Jianhua, a Nangang district planning official, told the AP that construction will proceed after his office "appropriately handled" homeowners' petitions, but declined to elaborate.



# Overdrive

## Auto review: The Porsche Macan proves to be a sure-footed beast in the snow



TNS

The Porsche Macan in Truckee, Calif., where it was sure-footed in the snow.

By **RUSS MITCHELL**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I rarely succumb to envy. On a journalist's salary, it's better not to.

I lust not for the Range Rovers, the BMW X5s or the Audi Q5s driven by parents at my fifth-grader's fancy pants private school. When my daughter, my wife and I drive up to Lake Tahoe from Berkeley, Calif., — as we do nearly every weekend in the winter — it's in our solid, practical, low-cost Subaru Forester.

Those luxury SUVs? Ungainly vehicles that drive less like cars, more like trucks. Snow handling's no better than in my Subaru. Cushy, yes. But worth twice the price? Not for me.

Then there's the Porsche Macan.

When the Macan hit showrooms three years ago, I was intrigued. The reviews were near-unanimous: a luxury all-wheel-drive hatchback with enough space to be considered a compact sport utility vehicle but designed to provide a pure Porsche sports car ride. (Few such accolades are directed at the Porsche Cayenne, whose larger size creates some truck-like characteristics.)

But how well would the Macan do in the snow? This was the year to find out.

The Sierra Nevada have gotten socked with 30 feet of snow in 2017 so far. The walls of snow alongside the driveway at our rental house are too tall for shoveling — the mightiest toss won't clear the top. All you can see out the second-floor kitchen windows is snow pressed against the glass, the piles reach so high.

I borrowed a silver Macan GTS for a week in February — the season's heaviest snow week in a year.

We were unable to extract full joy out of the 3.0-liter V-6 twin turbocharged, 360-horse-

power engine, especially around the curves, given that the car was, necessarily, fitted with snow tires. But playing giddy-up on the dry sections of I-80 before we hit the mountains provided plenty of rush.

The snowfall was thick as we traversed the mountains, the wipers going full blast, barely able to keep up. A few cars had pulled to the roadside to put on chains or wait it out. I wasn't pushing it, speed-wise, but the Macan handled the storm as sure-footedly as any vehicle I've ever driven.

The real test was the drive-way at the rental house — a steep ascent around a tight curve. Some vehicles, even all-wheel drive vehicles, have problems here, especially on fresh snow before the plow guy arrives.

My Forester has had no problems. Neither did the Macan. It scampered right up, never mind several inches of powder and a frozen layer underneath.

Just as different engines sport different characteristics, so do all-wheel drive technologies. High-end versions now use sensors and software to monitor conditions and distribute power among the wheels accordingly.

Some do it better than others. Reviewers have praised the Macan's AWD performance generally. I can attest that it works great for those who need it in heavy snow.

In December, before the biggest storms had hit, I'd taken Jaguar's lovely-looking F-Pace SUV on a snowboarding weekend. It slipped on the driveway, and was a bit squirrely on icy roads. Full disclosure: That one had all-season tires, not snow tires. But so does my Forester.

Don't get me wrong, the F-Pace is a great car to drive, with pleasant aesthetics in-

side and out ("I feel like a princess," my daughter said) and cutting-edge driver-assist features like a collision warning system that even senses a quick slowdown in speed in the swarm of traffic ahead, for a big reduction in brake-slamming. If you're not planning on riding on roads that soon will require a snowplow, it's well worth a close look.

My point, though, is that all-wheel-drive systems are not created equal, and if you get a chance to try out a particular vehicle's snow-handling characteristics in real-life before you spend big bucks, take it.

Speaking of big bucks, would I pay the \$89,000 required to own the Macan GTS I drove? (The base price is \$69,000, but the op-

tions add up fast.)

Absolutely, if I had the money. It's a sports car with a little extra room. It drives like a dream, even in bad weather. It corners better than any SUV I've driven or ridden in. Horsepower and other technical details aside, the powertrain provides physical and emotional sensations that might cause it to be outlawed if it was a drug.

The sportily elegant interior is inviting enough to be called womb-like, if wombs were equipped with buttons, dials and a gearshift.

The Forester does the job it's meant to do, and does it well. I own the XT version, with sport mode and turbo. I like it fine; I'd even recommend it highly. Compared with the Macan, though, it's a box on wheels.

### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

*†John Peter Duenas Del Rosario*  
*"Chief / JD"*



*Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
*Thank You*  
*Olomwaay*

The tears have dried, the flowers have withered, but your presence with us at the daily Eucharistic Celebrations, the nightly rosaries, and the funeral services of our beloved has given us the courage to endure the pain and our great loss - the loss of "chief". Because of his death, a new life has begun. His new life with his Creator, and our new life — a life in which we have created new acquaintances, making new friends and developing a stronger bond with families. Because of these, we are forever grateful for the memories you have instilled in us.

A beautiful and meaningful service for our beloved "chief" would not have been possible without the unselfish help and assistance of families and friends. Our sincerest appreciation to His Excellency Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez for his prayers and to Fr. Romil Aperocho for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial. Thank you to Fr. Ken, Fr. Harold, Fr. Charlie and Fr. James for assisting during the Eucharistic Celebrations. Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Ms. Rose Magofna "Ocha" for leading us with the Holy Rosary each evening, and Tan Ko Palacios.

We are forever grateful to his colleagues at the Office of Probation and the CNMI Superior Court Staff for the honors bestowed to him at the memorial service, Mayor David Apatang and his staff, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Customs, Office of Fish and Wildlife and the Matua riders.

Our gratitude to the Doctors, Nurses and staff of CHCC for the care and compassion extended to our beloved.

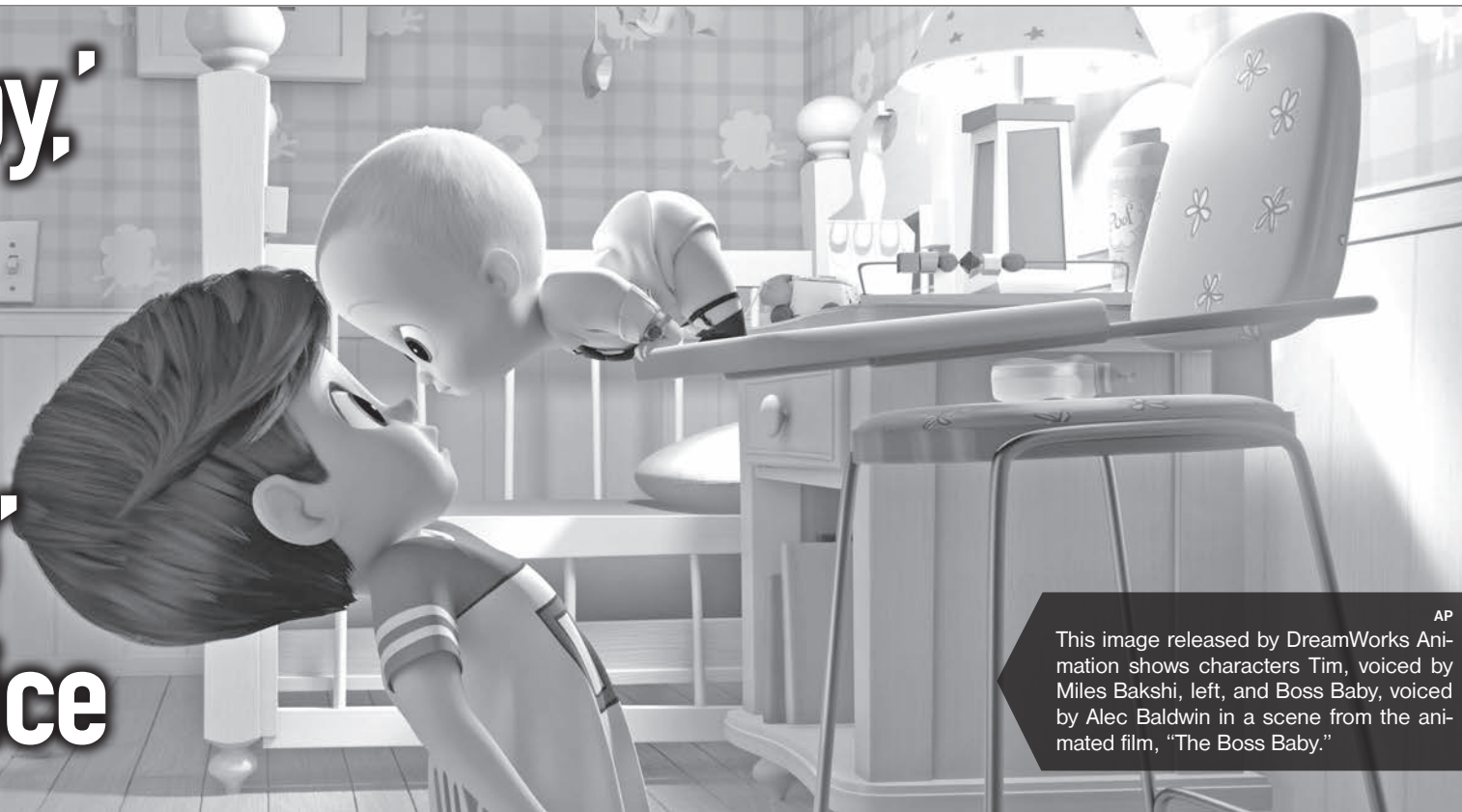
To all who have helped in one way or another - Thank you.  
May The Lord bless you and keep you safe.  
May the Lord shine His face upon all of us and give us peace.  
May you have a Joyous and Blessed Easter.

With All Our Love and Prayers,  
†Herbert S. & Rose Duenas Del Rosario, Children & families  
Darrak Lacapa Benavente & Aidin  
Roman C. and Andrea L. Benavente & Children



# Life & Style

## 'Boss Baby,' 'Beauty' outshine 'Smurfs 3' at box office



AP  
This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters Tim, voiced by Miles Bakshi, left, and Boss Baby, voiced by Alec Baldwin in a scene from the animated film, "The Boss Baby."

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Smurfs are feeling a little blue this weekend.

The third installment in Sony's animated series, "Smurfs: The Lost Village," made its box-office debut in third place, with \$14 million—far behind family-friendly holdovers "The Boss Baby" and "Beauty and the Beast," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Featuring the voices of Demi Lovato and Joe Manganiello, "Smurfs," which reportedly

cost \$60 million to make, has not charmed critics either. Its earnings were worse than the 2013 opening of "Smurfs 2," which went on to gross \$347.5 million worldwide despite a \$17.5 million debut and a hefty \$105 million price tag.

But the fate of the third "Smurfs" is not necessarily sealed, says ComScore's senior media analyst, Paul Dergarabedian.

"There are other revenue streams for films like this," Dergarabedian said, noting international profits and home video potential that could re-

coup production costs.

In first place, "The Boss Baby" added \$26.3 million in its second weekend in theaters, bringing its North American total to \$89.4 million. Sufficient buzz and the benefit of voice star Alec Baldwin's popular portrayal of President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live" likely helped the film succeed, Dergarabedian said.

Meanwhile, "Beauty and the Beast" earned \$25 million to take second place at the box office. In four weeks, Disney's live-action fairy tale has brought in \$432.3 million domestically.

While the family films dominated, moviegoers had other options on a relatively quiet weekend. The tepidly reviewed buddy comedy "Going in Style," starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin, opened in fourth place, with \$12.5 million.

The faith-based drama "The Case for Christ" also launched with \$3.9 million from 1,174 theaters.

In limited release, the Chris Evans drama "Gifted" took in \$476,000 from 56 theaters, while the World War II drama "Their Finest" grossed

\$77,000 from four screens in New York and Los Angeles.

The relative quiet at the box office is ending soon. "The Fate of the Furious," the eighth installment in "The Fast and the Furious" franchise, speeds into theaters next weekend, followed by "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" a few weeks later.

"There are a lot of box-office heavyweights looming on the horizon," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for

Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Boss Baby," \$26.3 million (\$37.5 million international).
2. "Beauty and the Beast," \$25 million (\$36.1 million international).
3. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," \$14 million (\$22 million international).
4. "Going in Style," \$12.5 million (\$4.3 million international).
5. "Ghost in the Shell," \$7.4 million (\$41.3 million international).
6. "Power Rangers," \$6.2 million (\$6.1 million international).
7. "Kong: Skull Island," \$5.8 million (\$16 million international).
8. "Logan," \$4.1 million (\$2.7 million international).
9. "Get Out," \$4 million (\$2 million international).
10. "The Case for Christ," \$3.9 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Ghost in the Shell," \$41.3 million.
2. "The Boss Baby," \$37.5 million.
3. "Beauty and the Beast," \$36.1 million.
4. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," \$22 million.
5. "Kong: Skull Island," \$16 million.
6. "The Devotion of Suspect X," \$9.1 million.
7. "Power Rangers," \$6.1 million.
8. "Life," \$5.8 million.
9. "Going in Style," \$4.3 million.
10. "Extraordinary Mission," \$3.6 million.

## Mexican drug lord gets his own miniseries, made in Colombia

**TABIO, Colombia** (AP)—While the real Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is locked up in a cold, tiny cell in New York, his career as a drug lord apparently over, his fictional counterpart is free and in top form in Colombia, where the Univision network and Netflix are filming a television series about his life.

Ironically, Guzman's rearrest in 2016—after two dramatic prison escapes—has created such a bloody power struggle for his Sinaloa cartel in Mexico that the series' producers thought it would be safer to film in Colombia, the country that used to be the epicenter of the hemisphere's drug violence.

Guzman was extradited to the United States in January, and his lawyers complain the conditions he faces at a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial are so restrictive they violate his rights.

The filming in Colombia was so cloaked in secrecy that the crew told locals they were filming a mythical TV soap opera, "Dolores de Amor," roughly "The Pains of Love."



AP  
In this March, 21, 2017 photo, Mexican actor Marco de la O plays drug trafficker Joaquin Guzman during the filming of "El Chapo" in Tabio, Colombia.

The Associated Press attended one filming session in the town of Taibo, where a half-dozen extras said they didn't know what the series was about.

Its real title is fairly self-explanatory: "El Chapo."

At the time filming started, Guzman was still in Mexico

and the series' location was shifted for security reasons, said producer Daniel Posada. "Colombia was a good option, because we have well-trained crews and it is very similar in appearance to Mexico."

Taibo has a colonial town square, church and park that

look like they could be found in rural Mexico. The effect will be completed in post-production by adjusting the intensity of the light to match Mexican skies.

Colombia may also be a little less legally complicated. Guzman employed a cadre

of lawyers to file a seemingly endless array of legal appeals in Mexico. One of the lawyers, Jose Refugio Rodriguez, suggested the producers could suffer legal consequences for using Guzman's name and story without his permission.

"If they are producing something that he (Guzman) has not authorized, if they start attacking him, or publishing things from his private life, then clearly there will be a legal response," Rodriguez said.

When Netflix and Univision announced the series last year, they said it is "based on the life story of one of the world's most notorious criminals."

Another Guzman lawyer, Andres Granados, told The Associated Press at the time that the two networks would have to pay for the right to use Guzman's name and nickname, which can be translated as "Shorty."

"If they air this, they are immediately going to be sued," Granados said. "They, by necessity, need the authorization of Mr. Guzman, because he is not dead."



# 'Fate of the Furious' cast say Johnson/Diesel feud overblown

**NEW YORK (AP)**—"The Fast and the Furious" franchise has seen its share of drama outside of the films, but rumored infighting between the series' biggest stars, Vin Diesel and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, is uncharted territory for the long-running series.

The riff was put into the spotlight last year when Johnson, while shooting "The Fate of the Furious," took to Instagram to both express appreciation for his female co-stars and embarrass some of his male counterparts for unprofessional behavior, calling them "candy asses." It's alleged he was referring to Diesel.

But at the film's world premiere Saturday night in New York, many attributed the situation between the two stars as nothing more than "business as usual" on a film set.

Johnson and Diesel were not seen together during promotional appearances, nor did they pose together on the red carpet. Johnson walked the carpet at the beginning of the



premiere, while Diesel arrived later.

Michelle Rodriguez, who plays Letty in the series, equated it to a family squabble.

"If you know a family that never fights, then I think ... you just met a Stepford family, and that family is (expletive),"

<sup>AP</sup> Tyrese Gibson, from left, Nathalie Emmanuel, Vin Diesel and Ludacris attend the world premiere of Universal Pictures' "The Fate of the Furious" at Radio City Music Hall on Saturday, April 8, 2017, in New York.

Rodriguez said. "It's not real."

Kurt Russell, who is back as Mr. Nobody, didn't notice any bad blood on the set. But he also said conflict is not an unusual thing on movie sets in general.

"I didn't see that, and I was there a lot. I would tell you. If there was I would tell you, 'Yeah, they got into it pretty good,'" Russell said. "I'll tell you what I can tell you: All movies are the same. Sometimes they are not an easy ride."

Russell feels the public paid attention to the rumors simply because of the popularity of the eight-movie franchise.

Director F. Gary Gray, a newcomer to the franchise, thinks the situation was overblown in the media.

"When you're striving for perfection, the process isn't always perfect, but we are all proud of what ended up on the screen," Gray said. But when asked if the two stars got along in the end, Gray simply said "ask them" before walking off.

Off-screen intrigue isn't expected to hamper box office results, however. The latest installment in the \$3.9 billion franchise is expected to earn over \$110 million when it speeds into theaters on April 14.

## Deaf patrons complain movie theater won't turn on captions

**WARWICK, R.I. (AP)**—Some deaf and hearing-impaired moviegoers say a Rhode Island theater refused to switch on the captioning so they could follow along with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

The Providence Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2phXbLK>) 18 hearing-impaired people tried to see the film at the Showcase Cinemas at Warwick Mall on Saturday.

Organizer Tim Riker says the group arrived unannounced and requested theater employees activate the captioning. But a manager refused, suggesting

it wouldn't be fair to other patrons who had not paid to see a subtitled movie.

The group left without seeing the film.

Riker says the group wants state lawmakers to approve pending legislation requiring certain theaters to accommodate hearing- and sight-impaired customers.

The Warwick theater is owned by Massachusetts-based National Amusements, which hasn't commented.

The popular "Beauty and the Beast" has earned \$432 million domestically in a month.

## Music legend Chuck Berry remembered in rock 'n' roll style

**ST. LOUIS (AP)**—Family, friends and fans paid their final respects to the rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry on Sunday, celebrating the life and career of a man who inspired countless guitarists and bands.

The celebration began with a public viewing at The Pageant, a music club in Berry's hometown of St. Louis where he often played. Hundreds of fans filed past Berry, whose beloved cherry-red Gibson guitar was bolted to the inside of his coffin's lid.

"I am here because Chuck Berry meant a lot to anybody who grew up on rock n' roll," said Wendy Mason, who drove in from Kansas City, Kansas, for the visitation. "The music will live on forever."

Another fan, Nick Hair, brought his guitar with him from Nashville, Tennessee, so he could play Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" while waiting in line outside.

After the public viewing,



family and friends packed the club for a private funeral service and celebration of Berry, who inspired generations of musicians, from humble garage bands up to The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The service was expected to include live music, and the Rev. Alex I. Peterson told the gathering they would be celebrating Berry's life in rock 'n' roll style.

Former President Bill Clinton sent a letter that was read at

the funeral by U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay because Berry played at both of Clinton's presidential inaugurations. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Clinton called Berry "one of America's greatest rock and roll pioneers."

"He captivated audiences around the world," Bill Clinton wrote. "His music spoke to the hopes and dreams we all had in common. Me and Hillary grew up listening to him."

<sup>AP</sup> Fans pay their respects to the rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry during a public viewing Sunday, April 9, 2017, in St. Louis.

Gene Simmons of the rock band Kiss wasn't scheduled to speak but someone urged him to take the podium. Simmons said Berry had a tremendous influence on him as a musician, and he worked to break down racial barriers through his music.

Paul McCartney and Little Richard both sent notes of condolences. At the end of the funeral, a brass band played "St. Louis Blues" while Berry's casket was carried out.

When Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards spoke about Berry at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's 1986 induction ceremony - Berry was the first person inducted from that inaugural class - he said Berry was the one who started it all.

## Woman who fled from love now regrets her hasty retreat

**DEAR ABBY:** A few years ago I met a wonderful person. I spent roughly three months with him in a budding relationship. My issue is that one night he said those three little words, and I panicked and disappeared from his life. I know it was a horrible and cowardly thing to do. I just didn't know how to handle it other than ask him why and saying, "You can't mean me, right?"

I have felt horrible that I vanished without any explanation and most likely hurt him. I really would like to apologize for my actions and immaturity. He didn't deserve that type of treatment. I recently found his address and wonder if it would be all right to send an apology, or if it would be best not to open potential wounds.

DISAPPEARED IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR DISAPPEARED:** Because you feel an apology and an explanation are in order, I see no harm in offering them. However, before you do, think this through. Is there more to this than a guilty conscience? Because years have passed, you both may be at different places in your lives than you were then. One or both of you may be married or involved with others. So before you do this, be absolutely sure not only of your motivations, but also of your expectations.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have recently had discussions with friends and family about the best way to express concern for someone who is facing major surgery. Some say they'd prefer hearing about others who have undergone similar procedures successfully. (But might that set expectations that can't be met, since not all procedures and physical circumstances are the same?) Or is it best to keep comments general? For example: "You will be in my thoughts/prayers/heart," or "I hope it goes even better than you hope it will." What's the most helpful way to express concern?

SENSITIVE SUBJECT

**DEAR S.S.:** Unless the surgery is for something life-threatening—in which case the thoughts, prayers and heart are necessary—keep the message upbeat and positive. Example: "Is there anything I can do for you while you're recuperating?" And if the answer is no, say, "I'll give you a call in a couple of days to see how you're doing, and we'll visit when you're up for company."

**DEAR ABBY:** If you give a wedding shower gift, is it proper to also give a wedding gift? I have done both for many years, but recently was questioned about why I do it. I told the person that's the way my mother raised me. Was

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



she correct?

GIFT GIVER IN CONROE, TEXAS

**DEAR GIFT GIVER:** Your mother raised you right. Weddings and showers are separate events. When attending a shower, it is customary to give the honoree a gift. The same is true for a wedding. That someone has given the bride a shower gift does not mean the person is not supposed to give the couple a wedding gift.

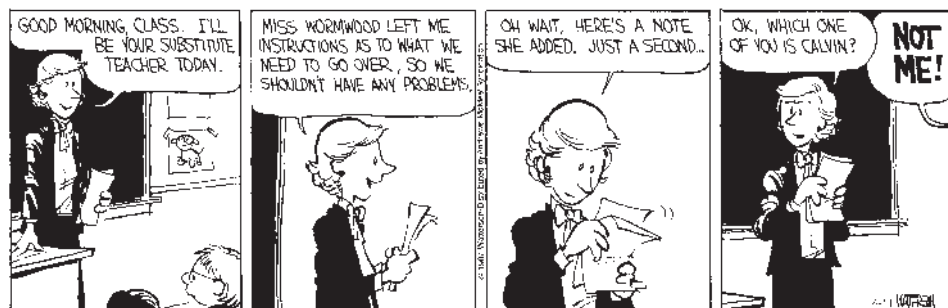
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

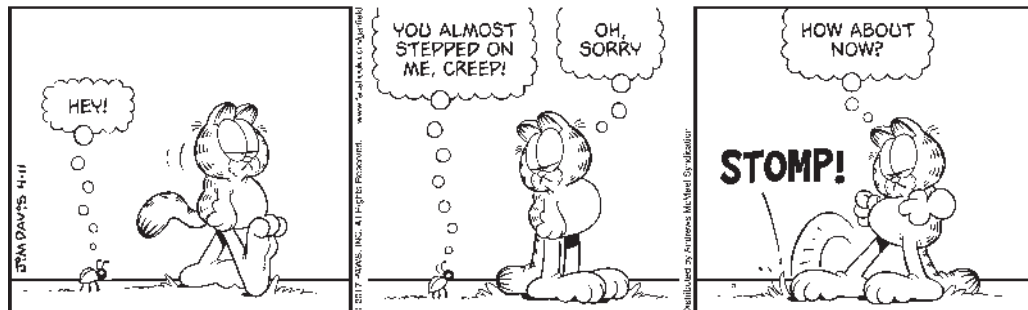
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



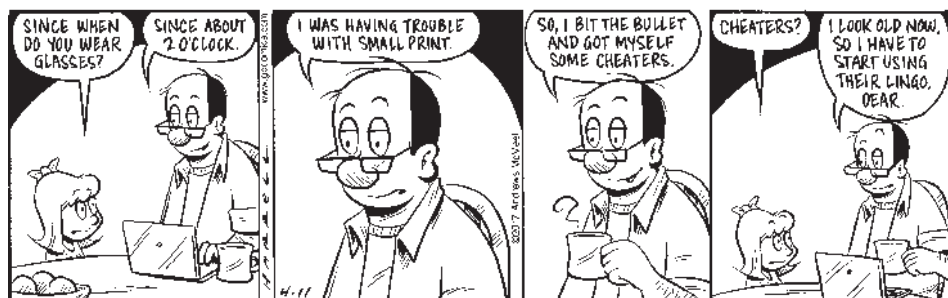
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Loafer, for one  
5 Super Bowl VIP  
8 Narc's measure  
12 Skater Lipinski  
13 Vacuum's  
14 In — (lined up)  
15 Spanish fortress  
17 Fury  
18 "Rocks"  
19 Pursues  
21 Bill Bryson's "— in the Woods"  
24 Borscht veggie  
25 "Hi, sailor!"  
26 Keep from spoiling  
30 — Tin Tin  
31 Praises  
32 Bond rating  
33 Santa's bagful

**DOWN**

15 Pugilist's weapon  
36 Deal (with)  
37 Goes limp  
38 Saudi neighbor  
41 Levy  
42 Yoked team  
43 Fore-shadows  
48 Portal  
49 Many millennia  
50 Yarn  
51 Iowa city  
52 Drunk-ard  
53 Monumental

**16 "Nasty!"**  
20 Big name in oil  
21 Seniors' org.  
22 Spinning sound  
23 Highly rated  
24 Crude dude  
26 Primitive flutes  
27 Bar  
28 Expansive  
29 Vittles  
31 Boxer Spinks  
34 Act parts  
35 Obsess  
37 Existed  
38 Meditative practice  
39 Physical  
40 Apportion  
41 Bivouac shelter  
44 Kanga's kid  
45 Opening  
46 Yalie  
47 Moment

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

C	O	V	I	N	E	T	I	M
A	N	O	S	E	S	R	H	O
R	G	U	N	D	T	R	I	P
E	E	E	G	R	A	P	P	A
R	E	G	A	R	D	H	I	L
D	A	S	O	N	T	E	E	T
L	I	Z	A	N	A	H	E	S
L	C	A	P	S	D	O	P	E
P	O	T	P	I	E	S	A	M
E	J	R	T	R	I	P	W	I
R	I	H	I	T	O	N	U	K
E	S	P	S	E	A	I	S	B

Yesterday's answer 4-11

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Saoirse Ronan, 23; Claire Danes, 38; David Letterman, 70; Ed O'Neill, 71.

**Happy Birthday:** Planning and preparation will be necessary. This is not the year to leap aimlessly into something that isn't a sure thing. Treat relationships with care and be willing to compromise when things don't go your way. Taking the long route will lead to contentment. Size up situations and execute your plans with confidence. Protect what is most important to you. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 23, 31, 44, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Share your dreams with someone you love and bring about positive changes to the way you live. Speak from the heart, but with the wisdom that comes from past experience. Take extra care of your health and well-being. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Get your facts straight and your personal papers in order. Dealing with government agencies and authority figures will turn out well if you are prepared. Helping someone with physical problems will encourage you to be more health-conscious. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** An unexpected opportunity looks promising. Consider what's being offered and who is involved. Don't let anyone pressure you into making a cash donation or covering costs that should be included automatically. A partnership agreement should be put in writing. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Keep an open mind, but don't feel like you have to agree with someone who is being friv-

olous or pressuring you. Anyone looking for an argument should be dealt with quickly. Aim to get along and promote peace over discord. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't waste time arguing. Get busy and make things happen that will improve your life. Using pressure won't work, but offering incentives will. Children and seniors in your life will have an impact on the way things unfold. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Make positive changes, but don't absorb more debt. Take the time to do the work rather than hiring someone to do it for you. You'll gain confidence, respect and feel the satisfaction that comes from achieving your goals. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't get caught up in an emotional disagreement. It's best to go about your business with a minimal amount of friction. Don't try to change others. Focus on personal gains, learning and achieving your goals. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Emotions will surface when dealing with the people you work with. Your insight will help you tune in to sensitive issues that others may overlook. A steady pace and hard work will be recognized and rewarded. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Your good nature and desire to be helpful will be taken advantage of by someone you least expect. Disillusionment will set in if you trust someone you shouldn't. Don't let anyone stop you from doing the things you enjoy doing most. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Sometimes it's best to take your time and observe what's happening around you. Exhibit common sense when dealing with people who are excitable or who respond emotionally. Do things your own way and at your own pace. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Go back to your roots and you will discover something that will help you advance now. Revisit an old idea that was ahead of its time and rework it to fit current economic trends. Hard work will pay off. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't lend or borrow. If you want to donate something, offer your time, not your cash. Become a part of something you believe in or want to see change. It's what you do that will bring the best results. ★★★

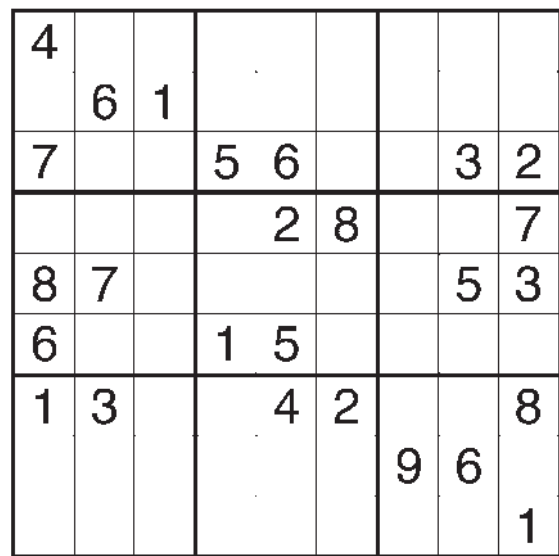
**Birthday Baby:** You are intelligent, cautious and reliable. You are caring and straightforward.

Eugenia's websites -- [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

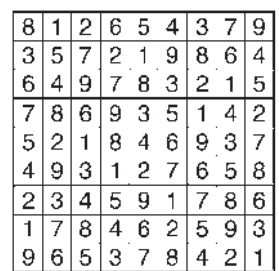


Difficulty Level ★★

4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

4/11

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NETIQUETTE

Solution: 8 letters



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Acronyms, Avoid, Blogs, Caps, Chat, Code, Concise, Context, Culture, Date, Direct, Discussions, Electronic, Emoticon, Etiquette, Fact, Flame Wars, Footer, Formal, Game, Group, Information, Intensifiers, Interpretations, Mail, Online, Phone, Play, Post, Privacy, Respect, Rude, Rule, Sarcasm, Shouting, Spelling, Subject, Threads, Usenet  
Yesterday's Answer: Tournaments  
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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# CLASSIFIED ADS



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Saipan Tribune

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT HYUN CORPORATION (1) Accountant/Office Manager

Min. of 5 years experience on Accounting and office management. With good command in English, Chinese and Korean. Must provide own transportation. Can work on flexible hours. Send resume to hyuncorpspn@gmail.com

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For inquiry, please call 235-7379 or email resume at candr@pticom.com

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Salary: \$6.55/hour  
Able to trim and maintain flowers. Rake fallen leaves and branches. Sweep and wash walkways. Clean and wash glass windows and do other related chores to help maintain cleanliness and safety of a building rental.

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Two (2) years experience in hotel management level occupation; speak & understand Russian preferred. Assist Front Office Manager in delivering best services to guests by managing front desk, concierge & guest services' daily operations of hotel located in Saipan, CNMI. Prepares front desk weekly work schedule; attends and/or conducts front office supervisory meetings; attends management meetings. Send resume to Inter-Pacific Resorts (Saipan) Corporation, P.O. Box 502370, Saipan, MP 96950

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 10th, 2017.  
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Please submit your resume and copy of picture ID by email to okadayasaipan@gmail.com

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### Supervisor (1)

High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Chinese, and Korean languages. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on April 14, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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### 1-MUSICIAN/ENTERTAINER

With 5 years working experience and a high school graduate. Entertain customers on sunset dinner cruise, hopping tour and other day time cruises. Assist in the installation of electrical equipment to be used in performing on the vessel. Must be able to rehearse, sing and play musical instruments.

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P.O. Box 501808, Saipan MP 96950 or  
Email to ssv@pticom.com

### 1- MAINTENANCE REPAIRER

Maintain dock facilities and engage on general maintenance of company vessels and vehicles. Assist company carpenters and mechanics in repairing, painting, fiber-glassing job on the vessels. Assist the general manager with other related maintenance duties as needed.

### 1-CARPENTER

With 10 years carpentry work experience. Will perform boat carpentry and fiberglass work on all of the company vessels. Will remove rotten wood on the vessel or the building to be replaced with new wood and to be re-painted afterwards. Must be a high school graduate.

Please send resume no later than April 15, 2017 to PELLEY BOAT CHARTERS, INC.  
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Email to ssv@pticom.com

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- Can work on a fast paced environment.
- Experience with QuickBooks and S2K Series accounting programs.
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- On island reference & police clearance required.

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No phone calls please.

WHATZIT Solution: Scrambled eggs

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**GGES EGSG**  
**GEGS SGEG**

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# Westbrook gets triple-double record, Thunder beat Nuggets



**DENVER (AP)—**First, Russell Westbrook broke Oscar Robertson's record for most triple-doubles in a season. Then, he broke the Denver Nuggets' hearts.

Westbrook's 36-foot dagger at the buzzer gave Oklahoma City a 106-105 victory, eliminating the Nuggets from playoff contention and capping an historic Sunday afternoon in which he scored 50 points to go with 16 rebounds and 10 assists.

Westbrook's 42nd triple-double is one more than the "Big O" had for the Cincinnati Royals in 1961-62, a mark that many in the NBA had considered unbreakable until Westbrook's incredible run.

The crowd gave Westbrook a standing ovation after he broke Robertson's record with his 10th assist with 4:17 remaining.

Then, those same fans stood in stunned silence after watching Westbrook score his team's final 15 points, including the game-winner after Steven Adams took the inbound pass from Kyle Single with 2.9 seconds left and dished to Westbrook, whose long jumper ringed through the iron as the horn sounded.

"It was a good defense," lamented Nuggets guard Gary Harris. "He's had a hell of a season. I think he might have just locked up the MVP with that one right there."

Westbrook insisted his buzzer beater wasn't a low-percentage prayer.

"I practice that shot every-day pregame," he said.

Same spot. And, he said, usually the same result.

"So, I definitely feel confident in shooting that shot," he said.

Westbrook had a double-double by halftime but didn't get his triple-double until feeding Semaj Christon in the right corner for a 3-pointer that pulled the Thunder to 101-91 with more than four minutes left.

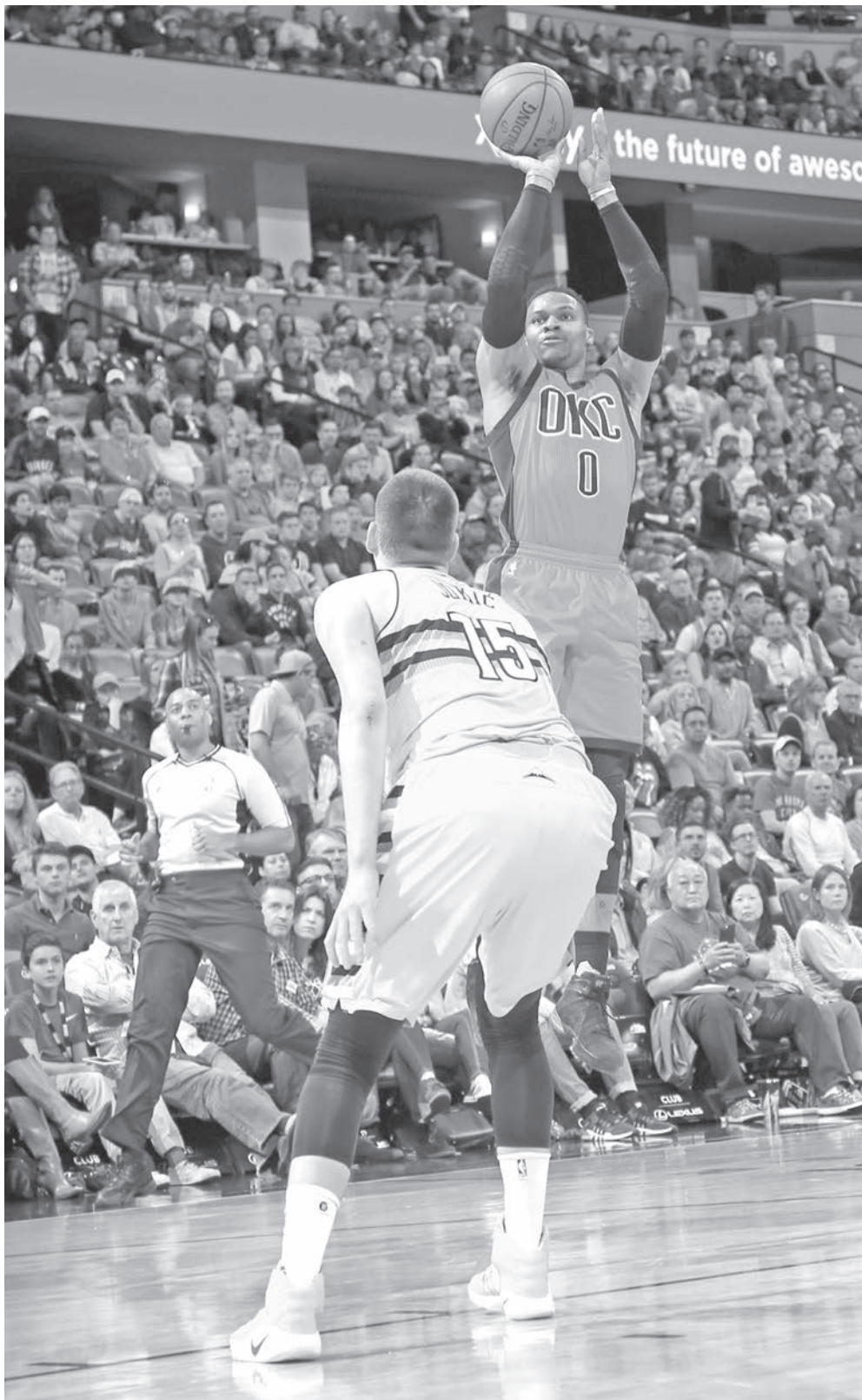
With his 10th assist and his record in the books—after four tries at that final assist—Westbrook took care of the scoring himself the rest of the way.

He followed a pair of layups with six free throws—half of them coming after Nikola Jokic was whistled for a flagrant foul and a technical—then added another layup.

"It was like a video game," Christon said. "I loved watching it."

Westbrook's biggest bucket was his last.

"Pure adrenaline, emotions running high, game-winning shot, it is something you dream about as a little kid to



be able to do that on the road especially from that distance," Westbrook said. "It is something you definitely will never forget."

Westbrook scored the game's final eight points overall as Denver's shooters went cold when one more bucket would have iced it.

"I give him credit, he is a hell of a player and an MVP candidate," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "(But) I really feel that we lost this game. Our turnovers in the fourth quarter, we had six turnovers for 10 points. Down the stretch, we had a lack of poise, lack of execution, we picked up a technical foul. Everything that could go wrong went wrong."

Danilo Gallinari scored 22 of his season-high 34 points in the third quarter to lead the Nuggets, who were hoping to take the race with Portland for the final Western Conference playoff spot down to the final two games.

But Gallo didn't score at

all in the fourth quarter, when the Nuggets managed just 14 points.

## Hawks 126, Cavaliers 125, OT

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 22 points and Atlanta took advantage of Cleveland's fourth-quarter collapse to overcome a 26-point deficit and stun the Cavaliers.

Kyrie Irving scored 45 points for Cleveland, and LeBron James had a triple-double with 32 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists before the four-time MVP fouled out in overtime.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points to help Atlanta beat Cleveland for the second straight time.

The defending champion Cavaliers dropped into a tie with Boston atop the Eastern Conference. Both teams have two regular-season games remaining. If the Cavs and Celtics finish with the same record, Cleveland will get the top seed for winning the season series.

## Rockets 135, Kings 128

In Sacramento, James Harden had 35 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds for his 21st triple-double of the season, leading Houston past Sacramento.

Harden has scored 30 or more points and had double-digit assists in 29 games.

Ryan Anderson made six 3-pointers and had 21 points for Houston. Clint Capela and Lou Williams each had 18 points, and Bobby Brown made four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points.

Skal Labissiere had 25 points for the Kings, and Ty Lawson added 20 points and 11 assists.

## Lakers 110, Timberwolves 109

In Los Angeles, D'Angelo Russell made a 3-pointer as time expired and Los Angeles overcame a huge game by Karl-Anthony Towns to beat Minnesota.

Tyler Ennis added a career-high 20 to help the Lakers win

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook takes a shot over Denver Nuggets forward Nikola Jokic (15) during the first half of a basketball game Sunday, April 9, 2017, in Denver.

their fourth straight game.

Towns had 40 points on 17-of-22 shooting and grabbed 21 rebounds, one shy from tying his career high, and Andrew Wiggins had 41. Minnesota has lost four in a row and 10 of 13.

## Raptors 110, Knicks 97

In New York, DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points and Toronto beat New York to wrap up at least the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Toronto pulled away to reach 50 victories for the second straight season. The Raptors can still finish second if they beat Cleveland in their regular-season finale and Boston loses its final two.

Kyle Lowry added 17 points and 11 assists for Toronto. New York rookie Willy Hernangomez tied his career high with 24 points and had 11 rebounds.

## Pistons 103, Grizzlies 90

In Memphis, Reggie Bullock

and Boban Marjanovic each scored 14 points and Detroit used a 3-point shooting spree in the fourth quarter to beat Memphis.

The Pistons, who trailed by 12 early in the third quarter, shot 6 of 7 from 3-point range in the fourth to pull away from Memphis. The Grizzlies played their reserves in the fourth with the seventh seed in the Western Conference already secured.

Marjanovic also had 10 rebounds, and Darrun Hilliard scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth.

## Suns 124, Mavericks 111

In Phoenix, Devin Booker and T.J. Warren each scored 21 points to help Phoenix beat Dallas in the Suns' home finale.

Booker went to the bench for good with 8:35 left in the third quarter. Booker, with a 3-pointer less than two minutes into the game, passed Kobe Bryant to move into fourth place on the NBA scoring list of players before their 21st birthday. Booker, with 2,774 career points, trails Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and leader LeBron James.

## All set for playoffs in the West

**OKLAHOMA CITY—**By now, you've probably heard Russell Westbrook logged his 42nd triple-double of the 2016-17 campaign against the Nuggets, passing Oscar Robertson for the most in single-season history. If you haven't, you're way behind, and you should probably read all about it here before going any further.

Now that you're caught up, what you may have skipped over amid the drama of Westbrook's 50-point, 16-rebound, 10-assist effort on Sunday night was that the 36-foot buzzer-beater he hit to beat Denver and knocked the Nuggets out of the playoff contention and punched the Portland Trail Blazers' ticket.

Even if Denver (38-42) wins out and Portland (40-40) loses its final two games, the Blazers own the tiebreaker, thanks to former Nuggets big man Jusuf Nurkic's revenge win over his former team late last month. Needless to say, C.J. McCollum, Damian Lillard and company appreciated Westbrook's effort.

The Blazers are hoping Nurkic, who will miss the final five games of the regular season due to a non-displaced fractured right fibula, could return for the playoffs. If Portland has any chance against the West-

leading Golden State Warriors in the first round, the Blazers need Nurkic's help and then some.

Now that the Warriors and Blazers are locked into their 1 vs. 8 playoff matchup, the entire West field is set. The No. 2 San Antonio Spurs are set to face the No. 7 Memphis Grizzlies, the No. 3 Houston Rockets will battle Westbrook's No. 6 Thunder, and the L.A. Clippers are going to play the Utah Jazz in a 4-5 battle that's host is yet to be decided, since the two teams own the same 49-31 record. (The Rockets beat the Sacramento Kings and Grizzlies lost to the Detroit Pistons in meaningless games on Sunday.)

Denver's loss robs one of the season's great revelations—second-year center Nikola Jokic, who has six triple-doubles of his own and is averaging 19.2 points, 11 rebounds and 5.8 assists since become a full-time starter on Dec. 15—of his first playoff appearance. He finished with 23 points, six rebounds and three assists, and teammate Danilo Gallinari poured in a season-high 34 points, but it wasn't enough, as Westbrook outscored the Nuggets 15-4 by himself over the final 3:35 to end Denver's season.



# Instead of folding up, Garcia fights back to win Masters

**AUGUSTA, Ga.**—No one had played more majors with less to show for it.

Sergio Garcia had plenty of reasons to believe it would go on that way forever.

He was already two shots behind Justin Rose with just six holes left when his hooked tee shot at No. 13 crossed the creek and settled beneath an azalea bush. Suddenly, this Masters took on a sad, if familiar cast.

Another bad break. Another alibi for losing. Like the 70 previous times he'd come to a major with high hopes, another one of golf's biggest events appeared destined to slip from his grip. Instead of folding up this time, Garcia decided to fight back.

"I knew I was playing well," he said, the green jacket draped across the Spaniard's slim shoulders. "I was very calm, much calmer than yesterday, much calmer than I've felt probably in any major championship on Sunday."

An improbable par at the 13th provided the impetus for an unexpected charge. Garcia and Rose had been butting heads since they were teenage stars in Europe some 20 years ago, and after the Spaniard pulled even with an eagle two holes later, this duel was extended to a playoff.

Both missed short birdie putts to win in regulation and returned to the 18th tee for the first extra hole. This time, the Englishman blinked first.



AP  
Sergio Garcia of Spain hits from a bunker on the second hole during the final round of the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 9, 2017, in Augusta, Ga.

straight year. But other than 2011, when he took a lead into the back nine, McIlroy hasn't really been a big threat to win. The last four years, he's finished a combined 26 shots out of the top spot.

■ Jordan Spieth's mastery of Augusta National—he finished second, first and second in his three previous appearances—never materialized this time around. The 23-year-old Texan struggled throughout. He was 10 shots behind after the first round, largely due to a quadruple bogey that echoed his final-round collapse in 2016. Spieth moved back into contention with a 68 Saturday, but he promised to play aggressively and promptly tumbled back down the leaderboard and finished tied for 11th with a final-round 75.

■ Rickie Fowler, who played alongside Spieth in the next-to-last group, has been a marked man in the majors after posting top 5-or-better finishes in all four majors three years ago. He finished tied for 11th here, which hardly seemed like progress. By the same token, it also marked his best finish in one of golf's four big events since the 2014 season.

"Any time one of those guys gets that huge monkey off their back, I think it makes it a poignant major championship," Rose said afterward.

He could afford to be gracious, of course, having won a major at the U.S. Open in 2013. But there were questions about the mutual respect between the long-time rivals. Not since 1998 have the last two players on the course gone to the 18th tied for the lead. When they embraced at

the last hole, Rose patted Garcia's chest, calling attention to the heart some doubted would ever be stout enough to win the big one.

"It's always a nice to be a part of history," Rose added a moment later. "I would have liked to be the right part of it, but nevertheless I hope it's a good one."

Garcia became the third Spaniard to earn a green jack-

et, winning on what would have been the 60th birthday of the late Seve Ballesteros. And it was Jose Maria Olazabal, who won the Masters in 1994 and 1999, who sent him a text on the eve of the Masters telling Garcia to believe and "to not let things get to me like I've done in the past."

He didn't. "Obviously this is something I wanted to do for a long



**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—

Albert Pujols hit his 592nd homer and a tying, two-run single in the ninth inning before Cliff Pennington's drive to the wall capped the Los Angeles Angels' rally from a six-run deficit for a 10-9 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday.

Pennington's single drove in Mike Trout to end a preposterous comeback by the Angels, who trailed 8-1 in the seventh and 9-3 before Pujols homered to lead off the ninth against Casey Fien.

Yunel Escobar trimmed Seattle's lead with a two-out, two-run double off closer Edwin Diaz (0-1), who gave up three hits. Diaz also walked Kole Calhoun and Trout before Pujols and Pennington delivered back-to-back singles.

## Twins 4, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Miguel Sano and Jorge Polanco homered to back Ervin Santana's six scoreless innings as Minnesota beat Chicago for its best start since 2010.

Santana (2-0) held the White Sox to two singles and lowered his ERA to 0.69. Minnesota, which finished with

## Pujols leads Angels' 7-run rally in 9th to beat Seattle

the worst record in the majors last season, has the top mark in the American League at 5-1.

## Pirates 6, Braves 5, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Starling Marte hit a two-run homer off Jose Ramirez in the 10th inning to lift Pittsburgh over Atlanta.

The Braves took the lead in the top of the inning on an RBI groundout by Tyler Flowers, but Pittsburgh wasted little time getting to Ramirez (0-1).

## Red Sox 7, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Sandy Leon broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run single, part of a four-run rally that lifted Boston over Detroit.

The Red Sox rallied four times from one-run deficits, finally taking the lead against the Detroit bullpen.

Matt Barnes (1-0) got the win in relief. Craig Kimbrel allowed a run in the ninth but recovered for his second save of the season.

## Yankees 7, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Aaron Judge hit a tying home run, Starlin Cas-

tro's RBI single keyed a four-run ninth inning and New York rallied to defeat Baltimore and avert a three-game sweep.

It was the first loss of the season for the Orioles, who started the day as the only unbeaten team in the majors at 4-0.

## Mets 5, Marlins 2

In New York, Noah Syndergaard made a blistering return to the mound, overpowering Miami for much of the night as New York averted a three-game sweep.

Forced from Monday's season opener against Atlanta by a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand after six scoreless innings, the right-hander was given an extra day of rest.

## Phillies 4, Nationals 3

In Philadelphia, Cesar Hernandez hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to give Philadelphia a victory over Washington.

Pinch-hitter Ryan Zimmerman delivered a tying, three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth off closer Jeanmar Gomez (1-0), but the Phillies immediately answered

to take two of three from the defending NL East champions.

## Cubs 7, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Kyle Schwarber and Ben Zobrist homered, Jake Arrieta threw seven strong innings and Chicago took the weekend series from Milwaukee.

The Cubs scored four runs in the first off Brewers starter Zach Davies (0-2) on a two-run double by Addison Russell and a two-run triple from Jason Heyward.

## Reds 8, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Scott Feldman permitted four hits and struck out six in six-plus innings as Cincinnati beat St. Louis to take two of three from the Cardinals.

Adam Duvall had three hits, including a home run, and two RBI for the Reds, who have won just five of their last 40 series at Busch Stadium. Joey Votto also went deep for Cincinnati.

## Astros 5, Royals 4, 12 innings

In Houston, Jake Marisnick hit a tying home run off Kel-

time but, you know, it never felt like a horror movie," Garcia said. "It felt like a little bit of a drama maybe, but obviously with a happy ending."

Other things we learned at this Masters:

■ Rory McIlroy arrived with a chance to complete the career Grand Slam—accomplished only by Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Gene Sarazen—and he finished in the top 10 here for a fourth

## Diamondbacks 3, Indians 2

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin pitched six scoreless innings, Chris Owings homered and had three hits, and Arizona completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

The win improved the Diamondbacks to 6-1, matching the best seven-game start in franchise history, set in 2000.

## Giants 5, Padres 3

In San Diego, Hunter Pence and Buster Posey hit consecutive home runs, and Johnny Cueto struck out seven in seven strong innings as struggling San Francisco beat San Diego to prevent a three-game sweep.

The Giants snapped a four-game losing streak. They won only twice during the season's opening week.

## Rays 7, Blue Jays 2

In St. Petersburg, Steven Souza Jr. hit a three-run homer and was involved in a scrum after a slide during Tampa Bay's victory over Toronto.

Corey Dickerson and Jesus Sucre also homered, and Jake Odorizzi (1-1) pitched six effective innings for the Rays, who took three of four from Toronto at Tropicana Field.



# US could gain FIFA support through Mexico, Canada joint bid

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A final on or around the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Modern stadiums across the United States and perhaps in Mexico and Canada, too.

A North American World Cup in 2026 with 48 nations would be far larger and played in almost all different venues than the 24-team event the U.S. hosted in 1994.

Soccer officials planned to announce details of the joint bid by the U.S., Mexico and Canada at a news conference Monday atop the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. The split of games was likely to be discussed.

“Don’t think for a moment that the political climate in the United States didn’t impact this,” former U.S. defender Alexi Lalas, now a Fox analyst, said Sunday. “A joint World Cup that includes Mexico probably garners additional support and sends a message.”

U.S. President Donald Trump has faced criticism over his plans—since stopped by courts—to bar new visas for people from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last month that “any team, including the supporters and officials ... who qualify for a World Cup need to have access to the country, otherwise there is no World Cup. That is obvious.”

A majority of games likely will be played in the United States.

Infantino and the six confederation presidents have recommended the North and Central American and Caribbean region get six berths, any host included. But the proposal said the FIFA Council would decide on a structure in the event of co-hosts.

“You sit there and just shake your head: Where is this thing going to go and why?” said former U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller, currently an ESPN analyst. “Who knows, maybe they’ll move it to 68 teams by that time? It’s so hard to tell what FIFA’s thinking or



United States players warm up during a training session in Panama City, Monday, March 27, 2017.

Bancomer, 52,000, 2015) and Guadalajara (Estadio Chivas, 45,000, 2010).

Canada’s largest arena is Commonwealth Stadium (56,000) in Edmonton, Alberta, which opened in 1978 and was renovated ahead of the 2015 Women’s World Cup.

BC Place in Vancouver British Columbia (54,500) underwent major renovations from 2009-11 and also was used for the women’s tournament. Montreal’s Olympic Stadium (56,000), built for the 1976 Games, and Toronto’s Rogers Centre (53,000) are less ideal for soccer in their current states.

A joint effort could lessen costs in a process through which legal documents and promotion are exorbitant. The failed U.S. bid to host in 2018 or 2022 cost \$9 million, of which about half was funded by the U.S. Soccer Federation. Major League Soccer and its owners gave about half the remaining contributions.

what they’re doing or what’s the process after the last bidding fiasco. I guess you just have to trust the people closest to it, that they know what they’re doing.”

FIFA’s Congress of all members decided on World Cup hosts through the 1982 tournament, but the power was then given to its ruling executive committee of about two dozen members. After the tainted vote in December 2010 that awarded the 2018 event to Russia and 2022 to Qatar, the decision was returned to the Congress, now 211 members.

FIFA announced last May that the 2026 vote will take place in May 2020 and said in October that the previous two World Cup hosts—Europe and Asia—will not be eligible to bid.

Africa could mount a bid, especially if it allies with another confederation and both vote as blocs. Europe has 55 members, Africa 54, Asia 46,

CONCACAF 35, Oceania 11 and South America 10.

Lalas called a joint bid a “calculated and a strategic play.”

“I was hoping for a U.S.-hosted World Cup, remembering 1994 and how that changed U.S. soccer forever, and I wanted a 2026 version of the United States to also alone

reap the benefits of what a men’s World Cup can do,” he said. “However, I would rather have a joint World Cup than no World Cup at all.”

Racing to construct stadiums in time dominated the run-ups to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the 2014 tournament in Brazil, and the pace of building again is of concern as the 2018 World Cup in Russia approaches.

The U.S. portion of the bid will rely on the gleaming stadiums opened by the NFL in the past two decades.

Among the possible venues are MetLife Stadium in

East Rutherford, New Jersey (82,500 capacity, opened in 2010); AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas (80,000, 2009); Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, California (68,500, 2014); Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts (66,000, 2002); and Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia (69,500 in 2003).

Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium (71,000) is set to open this year and an 80,000-seat stadium for the Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood, California, in 2019. The Washington Redskins also hope for a new home.

Chicago’s Soldier Field, the only one of the 1994 venues likely to be used, reopened in 2003 after a gut renovation. Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, also has been modernized and a soccer-style roof over the seats was added.

Mexico would appear to have few edifice concerns. Mexico City’s Azteca Stadium, built for the 1966 World Cup, has an 87,000

capacity after a renovation that was completed last year, and there are relatively new venues in Monterrey (BBVA

## COMETS

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at the top of the fifth with Zep Limes reaching home off a passed ball.

With the win, the Comets improved their record to 5-2, tying the Falcons for first place (pending results of last Sunday’s games) and boosting their chances for the pennant.

Also in the race for the pennant are the Braves, who now have a 5-3 card following their demolition of Bank of Saipan.

Tony Dizon threw a two-hitter in five innings to clobber Bank of Saipan (2-5). He also recorded nine strikeouts in the

easy victory.

The Braves were never threatened in the shortened game, finding their form in the second inning after being held to one run in the first. The Braves added six runs in the third—two of them were courtesy of J.P. Celis’ single—and after being silent in the fourth inning the Braves recovered with a seven-run top of the fifth.

At the bottom of the fifth, Bank of Saipan had a good chance to end its drought as it loaded the bases. However, Dizon struck out the next three batters to deny Bank of Saipan a single run.

## TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

weekend came from Leland Isaiah Deleon Guerrero, is still winless in seven games.

Meanwhile, MP United claimed the boys U14 championship after forcing a draw against TanHoldings last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

Chris Kim made the crucial equalizer for MP United in the 24th minute, while Richard Waldo scored the lone goal for TanHoldings in the third.

MP United improved to a 6-3-0 record with one game left in the double-round robin contest, while TanHoldings also has one remaining match, but since it fell to a 4-4-1 slate after the draw, the latter could no longer catch the former and share the top spot in the six-team field. MP United will

play Kanoa in its last game set for April 22, while TanHoldings will collide against Paire.

With MP United bagging the boys U14 title and TanHoldings winning the co-ed U12 to join girls U15 champion Shirley’s FC to the Promised Land, only one division crown is at stake—the boys U17.

In other results in the boys U14 division last Saturday, Matansa shut down Kanoa, 3-0, while Shirley’s got a free win (forfeit over Paire).

Lolobeyong Benito had a pair of goals, while John Edward Fabia tallied one for Matansa, which is in fourth place in the team standings with it 3-3-3 card. Kanoa is ranked fifth with its 2-2-4 ark. Shirley’s is slightly ahead of Matansa after improving its mark to 4-0-5, while Paire is still winless at 0-2-7.

## CNMI

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Vargas and Yu Hung Lee are the manager and team manager, respectively. Completing the CNMI delegation is physiotherapist Pam Carhill.

“This tournament is another great opportunity for the girls to see and learn how other countries and players of their age play. Every time they go out of Saipan, it’s a chance for them to see how a game is played outside and find out what they can do to be in that level,” Koo said in an inter-

view with *Saipan Tribune* during a send-off ceremony for the team yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

The CNMI is in Group C of the tournament that has three pools. It will play Shanghai Jinshan District U15 Team on April 16 and Chinese-Taipei on April 18. The Commonwealth players will also face Group B’s Mongolia on April 20. Mongolia is joined by Hong Kong and Guam in Group B, while Group A or the Group of Death has China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea.

“I think we have a pretty

good chance against Mongolia because the girls continue to improve and show a lot of promise during the training sessions,” Koo added.

Players selected on the team have been training since last year as they have been part of the CNMI Girls U16 pool. When announcement of the EAFF U15 tournament was made, the squad was formed and players who made the cut trained together early this year. They practice four times a week.

Meanwhile, NMIFA Executive Committee member Nor-

man Del Rosario was among the well-wishers of the Commonwealth youth players and he delivered a brief message to the squad in absence of NMIFA president Jerry Tan and vice president Vickie Izuka.

“I am a member of a team and rely on the team. I defer to it and sacrifice for it because the team not the individual is the ultimate champion,” Del Rosario said in reference to the quote of U.S. National Team’s Mia Hamm. “Encourage each other all the time and always give your 100% until the final whistle.”



# 2016-2017 Public School System Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Grace Christian Academy's Alan Hinson hits the ball near the net against two Marianas High School blockers during Game 2 of their title duel in the boys division of the 2016-2017 Public School System Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Marianas High School's Benjamin Seman receives a serve from Grace Christian Academy.



Marianas High School's Ryan Relucio leaps for a spike.



Marianas High School's Luther Lizama serves.



Tinian High School players get ready near the net as their teammate prepares to serve.



Two Marianas High School players attempt to bump the ball.



Marianas High School's Troy Ngirarois, right, attempts to block a Tinian High School player.



A Tinian High School player soars for a hit against Marianas High School during their semis game.





Westbrook gets triple-double record, Thunder beat Nuggets

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## CNMI Girls U15 competes in EAFF tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth youth players' exposure to international competition continues as the CNMI Girls U15 National Team leaves for China this weekend to see action in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017.

Twenty-one players are selected on the CNMI youth squad that will play in the East Asian Football Federation-organized event from April 15 to 22 at the Jinshan Sports Center in Shanghai. Co-captains Jerlyn Castillo and Julianne Hall will lead



the team, which also has goalies Irish Viray and Theresa Toves, Princess Alcantara, Kyla Mei Tuazon, Esther Jones, Khristelle Itaas, Therese Millare, Lilian Podziwiski, Paulynn Joyce, Valeria Myers, Katrina Costales, Joannah Carreon, Jannah Casarino, Leisha Sally, Francesa Bucalig, Sharmaine Francisco, Hannah Santos, and Patricia Surima as members. Olympian Luem KhenKoo will coach the squad and will be assisted by Chi Ming Tang, while CNMI Women's National Team member Mikky

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Members of the CNMI U15 Girls National Team pose for a photo after the send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

# TanHoldings, MPU clinch division titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Two more division championships were won in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League with TanHoldings securing the co-ed U12 crown and MP United notching the boys U14 title.

TanHoldings reigned supreme in the co-ed U12 division as it finished the two-round robin competition with a 6-2-2 win-draw-loss record. It put icing on the cake after crushing Kanoa FC-2, 11-1, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Angelo Pulito and Anthony John Bergancia capped TanHoldings outstanding showing this season as they scored three goals apiece. Mark Joseph Roque added two, while Harry Chrisian Domulot, Ariel Narvaez, and Anthony Austria contributed one each for TanHoldings, which earned 19 points in 10 games for a two-point lead against runner-up MP United.

MP United, which took the co-ed U12 crowns in the spring of 2015 and 2016, faltered on its three-peat bid after wrapping up this season with a 5-2-1 mark and 17 points.

Right behind MP United was fall season champion Kanoa FC-1, which ended its campaign last Saturday with a 9-6 triumph over Matansa. Kanoa-1 earned a 5-1-2 record and 16 points. Sean Gil, Jim Kurt Maniago, and Andrew Sablan scored two goals apiece in their final game for Kanoa-1 this season, while John Mark Anastacio, Daniel Mar Pablo, and Rodgel Mangalao chipped in one each.

Matansa, which is at fourth spot with its 1-0-6 slate, drew hat tricks from Alex Megino and Jin Wen Xin. Matansa has one more game this season, as it plays Kanoa-FC 2 on April 22. Kanoa FC-2, whose lone goal against TanHoldings last

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

## Comets nip Falcons: Braves rout Bank of Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Crucifio Pangelinan stranded at second.

The Comets and Braves posted contrasting victories to remain in the Top 3 in the team standings in the Junior League division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball.



The Comets outlasted the Falcons, 7-6, in the first game last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the Braves blanked Bank of Saipan in the second match, 18-0.

The Falcons-Comets tiff went to three extra innings with the latter getting the go-ahead run at the top of the 10th inning as J.P. Castro's single drove in leadoff batter Terrance Changar. The Comets kept the precarious lead when pitcher Sab Saures fanned out the Falcons first batter Jericho James and the third and fourth, leaving

The Comets took the close victory as they shut down the Falcons from the sixth to 10th inning. Before going cold, the Falcon clung to a 6-5 advantage after four complete innings, while the Comets equalized

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
A Braves batter removes dirt from his shoes before stepping to the plate during their first round game against the Comets in the Junior League division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A TanHoldings Football Club player, right, kicks the ball in front of a Kanoa-2 defender during their game in the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.